

Iran may propose hostage deals

BEIRUT (R) — Iran has set up a top-level committee to propose deals for the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon, the editor of Beirut's Al-Shiraa magazine Hassan Sabra said Wednesday. Mr. Sabra told Reuters Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini wanted control over any such deals, which would probably involve the sale of arms to Iran and the unblocking of frozen Iranian assets. "Khomeini is the only man who can judge the proposals," he said. "He will accept them, the release of the hostages would become imminent."

Mr. Sabra said he said Al-Shiraa would publish the story on Monday. The weekly broke the news last November of U.S. talks with Iran to help bring about the release of American hostages. Mr. Sabra said the committee would group five of the most powerful men in Iran — Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President Ali Khamenei, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander Mohsen Rezaei, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiq Dost and Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmad.

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Iraq dismisses Iranian claim

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied Iranian reports of major fighting on the central front in the Gulf war on Wednesday, saying that an insignificant Iranian attack had been repulsed. A military spokesman told the Iraqi news agency (INA) that an Iranian Revolutionary Guards battalion had attacked the forward position of an Iraqi company. The Iraqis were driven off and most of them were killed, he said. Iran had said it launched a new offensive late Tuesday night, seizing three strategic heights, capturing 20 square kilometres of Iraqi territory and causing 800 Iraqi casualties. "We did not want to speak about such a small battle, which happens every day, but for the fuss made by Iran's information media," the Iraqi spokesman said. The spokesman also denied Iranian claims that Iraq had used chemical weapons in the area of Farsah. He said the claim was aimed at justifying Iran's own use of chemical weapons.

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U.N. human rights panel heads for Mideast

GENEVA (R) — A U.N. human rights committee investigating Israeli conduct in the occupied Arab territories flew to the Middle East on Wednesday after taking testimony from an Arab journalist on Israeli deportation of Palestinians. A U.N. spokesman said. Reuters the three-member committee departed Wednesday afternoon for Cairo, the first of three cities where they are to hold hearings on the treatment of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Akram Haniya, editor of the newspaper Ashaab published in East Jerusalem, testified before the committee on Tuesday. The special committee will hold hearings in Cairo (June 4-6), Amman (June 8-10) and Damascus (June 12-14). As in previous years, Israel has refused to allow them to visit the occupied territories for on-the-spot investigations.

Lebanese deputy dies

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's 99-seat parliament lost its second member in a week on Wednesday when Druze Deputy Salim Daoud died of a heart attack, parliamentary sources said. Parliament lost one of its most prominent members on Monday when Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated in a bomb explosion on an army helicopter. Altogether 16 deputies have died since the present chamber was elected in 1972. Civil war has prevented new elections.

Kuwait says Egyptians sailed boats seized by Iran

KUWAIT (R) — A cluster of fishing boats seized recently by Iran in the northern Gulf were manned by Egyptians, the Kuwaiti defence minister said. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted Sheikh Salem Al Sabah as saying the vessels carried "Egyptian brothers who possessed nothing except their fishing nets." Iran's IRNA news agency said on Sunday that Iranian forces had seized seven Kuwaiti speed boats and their crews had "confessed" to spying for Iraq under cover of fishing. Kuwait has denied the boats were on a spying mission.

New Sudan cabinet takes office

KHARTOUM (R) — A new coalition cabinet took office in Sudan on Wednesday three weeks after Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi demanded the dismissal of his government on the grounds that it was incompetent and too prone to feuding. Several key ministers retained their posts and four portfolios were left vacant pending further consultations between the main coalition partners — Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Mr. Mahdi retained the defence portfolio in the new cabinet while Mohammed Tawfiq Ahmad, information minister in the old government, was named foreign minister. Rashid Omer, who was finance and economic planning minister, became finance minister and will head a state committee responsible for economic planning.

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King and Mubarak review peace efforts

Osama Al Baz reports progress but cautions against expecting quick results

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks here on Wednesday and a senior aide to Mr. Mubarak reported progress on efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks between the King and Mr. Mubarak covered the latest developments in the Middle East and Jordanian-Egyptian relations. The talks were within the framework of coordination and consultation between the two countries, Petra said.

The King and President Mubarak held a closed-door meeting for over two hours shortly after the Egyptian president's arrival here. They were later joined by senior officials from both sides.

The meeting discussed efforts for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem through an international conference, Petra said. The agency added that the meeting also reviewed the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Lebanon and cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

Mr. Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him later left Amman.

In Cairo, Dr. Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's political advisor who was a member of the delegation that accompanied the presi-

dent to Amman, told reporters upon return that "we believe that we are making progress in the peace process in general. The details remain to be seen in the coming few weeks."

"The situation now looks more promising," he said. But he cautioned, "This is not to say that the conference is going to convene in the near future."

Dr. Baz said he hoped that support for the conference proposal would gather momentum and that all parties concerned "will realise that the convening of the conference is the best available option and the most safe scenario to pursue."

Asked if Egypt would discuss the conference idea with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Dr. Baz said: "We are in contact with all the parties. We are not excluding any party from our conference because we believe it is in the interest of peace to undertake the widest contacts."

Syria closes down Abu Nidal offices and expels its members

By Lamin K. Andoni in Tunis

THE SYRIAN government has closed down offices of the renegade Palestinian Abu Nidal group in Damascus and ordered a big number of the faction's members to leave the country immediately, according to Palestinian sources here.

The Syrian clampdown on the group started on June 1 when security forces took over Abu Nidal's offices in the Yarmouk camp and confiscated all of their contents, including the group's documents, the well-informed sources told the Jordan Times.

The Syrian measures, according to the same sources, included an order to members of the faction who do not hold Syrian passports to leave the country. Members of the group who hold Syrian nationality were warned that "they would face deportation

or imprisonment if they resumed their activities as part of the faction."

The sources said Libya was trying to mediate with Damascus to give the group's members time to collect their things before leaving the country but the Syrian government had been firm in pointing out that it wanted immediate departure of Abu Nidal supporters who held non-Syrian passports.

Libya has reportedly asked Syria to provide those asked to leave with a chance to find destinations of their choice, but the Syrian authorities have decided to deport them to countries according to their nationality, (or more accurately, their passports), the sources added.

The Syrian government has also informed representatives of the group in Damascus that no money would be allowed to be paid to the remaining members of the fac-

tion. Palestinian observers here were not surprised by the Syrian measure since the group's relations with Damascus has remarkably deteriorated following the faction's opposition to the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militia's siege of Palestinians in Beirut and South Lebanon camps last autumn. Moreover Abu Nidal fighters had joined in the defence of the camps along with forces of Mr. Yasser Arafat's Fatah and had turned down a Syrian proposal to turn against Fatah in the camps. Damascus was also upset when the group opened a dialogue with Fatah and showed willingness to rejoin the PLO ranks during the Palestine National Council in Algiers in April.

Other observers said the Syrian step was part of Damascus' efforts to disassociate itself from extremist organisations in a bid to improve its relations with the West.

Lebanese bid emotional farewell to Karami

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Hundreds of thousands of grieving people packed the streets of this northern city as the coffin of Lebanon's murdered Prime Minister Rashid Karami was carried in state Wednesday to its last resting place.

"The fortress of Tripoli bids its hero farewell," shouted near-hysterical mourners as soldiers bore Mr. Karami's coffin from his house and placed it on a gun carriage.

Mr. Karami, 65, was killed on Monday when a bomb exploded aboard a helicopter carrying him from Tripoli to Beirut.

The death of the Sunni Muslim statesman, prime minister nine times during the last 30 years of political turbulence in Lebanon, has shocked Christians and Muslims alike.

"We are orphans now," cried crowds in the city's tree-lined main street. "God damn and burn those who killed him."

They clapped and cheered when acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, a Sunni, and Shi'ite Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini arrived together at Mr. Karami's grey two-storey palace.

There were more cheers when Druze leader Walid Junblatt appeared with 100 Druze clergymen in white turbans and 500 followers from the Shouf hills southeast of Beirut.

They carried a huge picture showing Mr. Karami with Mr. Junblatt's assassinated father Kamal. "Walid has come to bid you (Mr. Karami) farewell and ask you to greet Kamal," a banner read.

Mr. Karami cited criticism by Transport Minister Jumblatt as one reason why he resigned on May 4, saying his "national unity" government had failed to solve Lebanon's problems.

Protected by 200 bodyguards with fixed bayonets and grenade launchers, a grim-faced Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and four Syrian government ministers linked arms in the procession from Mr. Karami's house to the 700-year-old Mansouri Mosque.

Jordan's deputy prime minister, Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, deputising for King Hussein, and the ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy, Spain and many Arab countries were also among the mourners.

President Amin Gemayel, who said Lebanon had lost one of its best men when Mr. Karami died, was represented by Mr. Hoss.

Women sobbed and fainted as the gun carriage made its way through the port city of 600,000, where Mr. Karami was favourite son.

Tripolitans crammed balconies overlooking the route, throwing rosewater, perfume and flowers as the coffin passed.

It took one hour for the procession to cover the two-kilometre route to the mosque, lined on one side by Lebanese troops and on the other by Syrian soldiers.

Mr. Karami's nephews bowed their heads in sorrow over the coffin as an army jeep towed the gun carriage along.

His two brothers, Maan and Omar, followed with tears streaming down their faces. Mr.

Prince Hassan sends condolences

OTTAWA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is currently on a visit to Canada, sent a cable of condolences on Wednesday to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on the assassination of Lebanon's Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

In his cable, the Crown Prince also expressed hope that security, stability and national unity would be restored to Lebanon. The Crown Prince also sent a message of condolences to the Karami family.

Hoss, a 57-year-old economist appointed by Mr. Gemayel within hours of Mr. Karami's death, also wept.

Islamic verses floated over the city from its many mosques, mingling with the sound of church bells and sirens from the motorcades of diplomats, politicians and religious leaders.

Christian bishops, senior army officers, Swiss Red Cross delegates and a score of Palestinians headed by the Syrian-based dissident Fatah chief Colonel Mohammad Saeed Abu Musa marched in a tide of people bearing Karami portraits.

A wreath from Mr. Gemayel, a political foe of Mr. Karami, lay atop the coffin, draped in the red, white and green Lebanese flag.

In west Beirut, Muslim clergymen and politicians led some 1,000 mourners carrying a symbolic black coffin and waving black flags from the premier's office to a local mosque.



His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a brief working visit to the Egyptian leader paid to Amman on Wednesday (Petra photos).

Prince Hassan meets Canadian leaders

OTTAWA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was due to meet Wednesday evening in Ottawa with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and members of the Canadian parliament.

Earlier Wednesday, the Crown Prince met with Joe Clark, secretary of state for external affairs, with whom he discussed Jordanian-Canadian relations and means of bolstering bilateral cooperation. Later an enlarged meeting was held in which aides on both sides took part in a review of the latest developments in the international arena, including the Middle East region.

Mr. Clark praised Jordan's positive political role in the Arab and international scenes and in the fields of culture and economic and social affairs.

Jordan has proved itself exemplary among the developing nations in these fields, he said.

Mr. Clark voiced support for the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East problem and said Canada would be willing to contribute to efforts in this respect.

During the meeting the developments in the Iran-Iraq war and ways to end it were also discussed. Mr. Clark expressed Canada's understanding of the situation in the Middle East and Gulf regions and the current

efforts for re-establishing peace.

On Canadian-Jordanian economic ties, Mr. Clark said his country was keen on expanding bilateral cooperation and in supporting Jordan's five-year national development plan and in developing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He expressed admiration of the social and economic development which he saw in Jordan during his visit to the Kingdom in 1986.

The Canadian side heard a detailed briefing during the meeting about Jordan's five-year national plan and the prospects for Jordanian-Canadian cooperation through the private and public sectors.

Following the meeting, the two sides signed an agreement on guaranteeing investments and encouraging the Canadian private sector to invest in Jordan's projects.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Prince Hassan by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Musher and Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark on Tuesday evening hosted a banquet in honour of Prince Hassan. In a speech he delivered on the occasion, Prince Hassan outlined Jordan's policies, which, he said, are aimed at enhancing peace and stability through construction and through establishing Arab solidarity in the face of dangers inherent in the

Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian question, he said, is the main concern for Jordan which contribute to shoulder its responsibilities for preserving and protecting the Arab identity of the occupied territories. Jordan's five-year development scheme for the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is aimed at enhancing the Arab population's steadfastness in the face of Israel's ambition of imposing hegemony and domination on the Arab land, he said.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's call for an international peace conference to be attended by all concerned parties to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. He also voiced appreciation for Canada for its role in contributing to efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli problem.

Mr. Clark, in a speech at the outset of the banquet, praised Jordan's policies which, he said, had been successful in transforming Jordan into a modern state.

Jordan, with its meagre resources and despite enormous challenges, has been able to make many economic achievements, he said.

Mr. Clark also paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts in international forums for achieving prosperity for Jordan and the Jordanian people.

Mr. Clark reiterated his country's support for efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference and the right of the Palestinian people to live in peace in their homeland.

On the Gulf conflict, Mr. Clark supported Jordan's positive and effective role which, he said, is aimed at achieving a peaceful solution.

He said his country was keen on promoting economic cooperation with Jordan and referred in this respect to the work of the Canadian Agency for International Development and the Canadian private sector's desire to participate in Jordan's development plans.

Earlier Tuesday, Prince Hassan met with a group of Canadian businessmen with whom he reviewed Jordan's development plans and the opportunity for Canadian businesses to participate in implementing the projects contained therein.

Prince Hassan called for meetings to be held by representatives of the private sectors in the two countries to discuss details of future cooperation.

Some businessmen expressed the view that the opportunity exists for launching joint ventures for exploiting Jordan's natural resources such as phosphate and minerals of the Dead Sea.

Reagan heads for Venice summit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan left for the seven-nation economic summit in Venice on Wednesday, calling for action to combat trade imbalances, reform agricultural policies and restore stability to international currency markets.

Mr. Reagan and his wife Nancy departed by helicopter from the White House for nearby Andrews air force base amid cheers from 400 high school students and music played by a marine band.

Mr. Reagan is to spend some of the time up to next week's summit — his seventh since taking office — relaxing at a hotel outside Venice. He is also to travel to Rome for an audience with Pope John Paul II.

The president, in remarks obviously aimed largely at Japan, earlier made clear he intended to call forcefully in Venice for open markets in countries that export heavily to the United States.

Setting forth his summit agenda on Wednesday, he declared: "Our countries should move forward to end unsustainable trade imbalances, reform agricultural policies and restore stability to the international currency markets."

"The major economic powers of the world must also work to eliminate inequities in the international trade environment to keep markets open and to keep commerce flowing. Economic growth and free markets are everybody's business."

Mr. Reagan said the summit agenda would include discussion of how to improve East-West relations, arms reduction, human rights problems, regional conflicts and bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Reagan will also confer on the threat to Gulf oil routes posed by the Iran-Iraq war. The United States is to increase its naval presence in the Gulf.

Jordan and Greece emphasise need for peace on basis of international law

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Greece on Wednesday underlined the need for stepped-up efforts for ensuring world peace and for solving all disputes on the basis of international law and the charter of the United Nations.

A joint communique issued at the end of a three-day visit to Greece by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said that the talks held by the prime minister and Greek leaders during the visit proved identical views on numerous subjects and affairs.

The talks covered recent international developments with particular attention to sensitive issues of the Mediterranean and the Middle East regions to which the two countries belong, the communique said.

It said that the two sides realise that chances exist for expanding bilateral cooperation and therefore they agreed on holding contacts at all levels for serving the common interests of the two peoples.

Referring to the talks between Mr. Rifai and Greek leaders, the communique said that they were held in an atmosphere marked with total frankness and cordiality reflecting the excellent relations that exist between Jordan and Greece and covered all aspects of cooperation, particularly in political, economic, scientific and cultural affairs.

The communique referred to a meeting on Tuesday between Mr. Rifai and Greek President Christos Sartzetakis, who it said extended an official invitation to His Majesty King Hussein to visit Greece. Mr. Rifai delivered to the Greek president an invitation from the King to visit Jordan.

The communique said the two countries signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism. It was signed for Jordan by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and for Greece by the acting foreign minister.

Mr. Rifai, who returned to Amman on Wednesday, met with Arab ambassadors to Greece be-



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who returned to Amman after a three-day visit to Greece, is received upon his return by Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani (left) and other Cabinet members (Petra photo).

fore his departure from Athens.

During the meeting, which was attended by members of a delegation accompanying him, Mr. Rifai outlined Jordan's position with regard to various Arab issues and the Kingdom's continued efforts for unifying Arab ranks and highlighting the Arab image in the outside world.

Mr. Rifai also briefed the ambassadors on his talks with Greek leaders and expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions.

The doyen of the Arab ambassadors in Greece, Mr. Ali Madani, spoke at the meeting paying tribute to King Hussein's role on the regional and international levels for consolidating Arab ranks.

The prime minister earlier in the day met with the leader of the Greek opposition, Mr. Constantinos Mitsotakis, who expressed the opposition's views with regard to regional and international issues.

Mr. Rifai briefed him on Jordan's policies vis-a-vis different issues, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Rifai hosted a banquet in honour of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and delivered an address paying tribute to the historical links between Jordan and Greece.

Referring to a visit Mr. Papandreu paid to Jordan in 1984, Mr. Rifai said that it had laid down firm foundations for fruitful relations between Jordan and Greece based on mutual respect and understanding and aimed at propagating the causes of right, prosperity and peace. Mr. Rifai also expressed appreciation for Greece's support for Arab causes in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese question.

Mr. Papandreu also delivered a speech at Tuesday's dinner and reiterated his country's support for the Arab World in its efforts to regain its rights.

Upon his return to Amman the prime minister was met by Cabinet members and senior officials.

U.S. House passes Gulf bill despite growing opposition

Pentagon: U.S. protecting only American ships, arms

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill requiring the Reagan administration to report to Congress on its Gulf policy but not restricting its actions.

The vote of 305-102 provided the necessary two-thirds majority despite a last-minute revolt by an alliance of liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans who sought to defeat it as a signal that a growing number of legislators oppose President Reagan's policies in the region.

The legislation was passed after the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate *Stark* in the Gulf, and Mr. Reagan's decision to protect 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers sailing under U.S. flags.

Congressional leaders complained they had not been consulted about the reflagging plans, and some charged the policy could lead the United States into the 6½-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

The legislation — supported by Congress' Democratic and Republican leadership as well as by the administration — required Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger to provide a report to Congress, within seven days of enactment, on plans to protect U.S. warships and flag ships in the Gulf.

It did not, however, place any restrictions on the administration as it proceeds to reflag the Kuwaiti ships and thus has no immediate effect on U.S. policy.

The Senate was expected to approve the legislation this week. The bill would then be sent to Mr. Reagan for his signature.

Supporters of the bill said passage was only a first step towards a greater congressional involvement in formulating policy.

But Democratic critics said the bill did not ask the administration to address tough policy questions in the report. They also warned that passage implied consent to Mr. Reagan's policies.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said Tuesday U.S. military forces in the Gulf are under orders to protect only American-flag vessels and occasional U.S. arms deliveries on the other ships to the

United States. Mr. Sims said three of the *Saratoga* escort ships will replace three of the Gulf task force ships in a routine rotation move. Among those to be replaced is the frigate *Stark*, holed by an Iraqi missile on May 17 with the loss of 37 crew.

Mr. Sims said Mr. Weinberger, who will be in Britain to mark the 40th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, would discuss the Gulf situation with Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan in Nice, France, on Thursday.

He declined to say whether Mr. Weinberger would press the Saudis for landing rights for U.S. fighters to provide air cover for the escort ships.

"It's undoubtedly correct to assume that the situation in the Gulf will be discussed," Mr. Sims said. "I'm not going to discuss the substance."

Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday that a boost in allied forces in the Gulf was not vital to protect shipping against attack, but that possible allied contributions should be examined.

Asked if he saw the need for a greater military presence by the allies in the Gulf, he told reporters: "Not necessarily, particularly so."

But he said an adequate force was needed to deter attack and noted that Britain and France, as well as the United States, maintained naval contingents there.

He said the British presence — two frigates and a destroyer — was actually greater than that of the United States when reckoned as a proportion of the national economy, and added that "in the end the French always come through."

He suggested that Japan, a major user of Gulf oil, could help diplomatically and economically.

Mr. Shultz said the question of the threat to shipping in the Gulf from the Iran-Iraq war would be discussed at next week's Venice summit of major industrial nations.

Japan cannot help

Japan said Wednesday it cannot provide economic help to back up U.S. efforts to ensure safe navigation in the Gulf because its constitution bans such aid.

Tokyo would, however, continue its diplomatic efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told reporters.

Mr. Gotoda said Japan, with 55 per cent of its oil imports coming from the Gulf, was gravely concerned about shipping in the waterway.

Because Tokyo had a free hand diplomatically with both Iran and Iraq it had made diplomatic efforts to bring about peace in the region and would continue to do so, he said.

Japan could not provide economic help to regions involved in armed conflict because of the constitution, Mr. Gotoda said.

EC watches Gulf developments

The European Community (EC) Energy Commissioner Nicolas Mosar said Tuesday the Community should watch very carefully for any developments in the Gulf war and their consequences on the oil market.

Mr. Mosar warned: "An escalation in the Gulf would increase tensions in the oil market."

"But I do not want to be alarmist," he said in a news conference after an EC energy ministers meeting in Luxembourg.

He said the volume of EC oil imports from the Gulf had declined to around 31 per cent of total oil imports in the first three months of 1987 against 35 per cent in the same period last year.

King Fahd donates wheat to Syria

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has decreed 100,000 tonnes of wheat to be donated to Syria as a gift from the Saudi people, the official Saudi Press Agency SPA said.

Senators call for multinational Gulf force

KUWAIT (R) — The leaders of a U.S. Senate team probing American defence strategy in the Gulf have said they favoured a multinational force to keep oil flowing through the waterway.

Senators John Glenn and John Warner, in Kuwait on the fourth leg of a Gulf Arab tour, told a news conference senior officials in the area appeared ready to discuss extra facilities needed if Washington upgraded its defence role.

The senators are next due in the United Arab Emirates, the last stop on a fact-finding mission prompted by Reagan administration plans to allow Kuwait to operate half its 22-tanker fleet under a U.S. flag.

Using the U.S. flag would entitle the tankers to protection from U.S. warships in the Gulf, a cause for concern in Congress after last month's mistaken Iraqi missile attack on the USS *Stark* which left 37 sailors dead.

Sen. Glenn told reporters he preferred the idea of a U.N. multinational force, but would consider a joint force with Britain and France if that proved impossible.

Sen. Warner said all three countries should be able to organise without difficulty a unified force in the Gulf under "some recognised structure of command and control." Sen. Glenn suggested such an arrangement could be worked out within 24 hours.

Sen. Warner said states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) recognised that some form of additional military commitment was required "and generally speaking they're prepared to sit down with our government and decide on the specifics."

Sen. Glenn said the critical question was how countries in the region would react if another ship came under attack in the Gulf.

"Will the GCC join us if retaliation is justified and is necessary to prevent additional attacks, or are we going to go it alone?" he asked.

President Reagan has hinted he would seek the help of U.S. allies in preserving freedom of navigation in the Gulf in discussions at next week's Venice economic summit.

U.N. makes headway on Gulf ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council have agreed on a number of points in a plan to halt the Iran-Iraq war that would be fair to both sides, a source close to their talks has said.

The official denied a report that the effort, which has been going on for several weeks, had come to a dead end, but he acknowledged that more work was necessary before any resolution could be brought to the council.

Delegates involved in the intensive negotiations, said to be proceeding in "an unbroken

rhythm" are from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

Each of these nations has the power of veto in the 15-nation council. Therefore, any meaningful effort to bring about a ceasefire in the war, which has been going on for almost seven years, would need the acquiescence of all five.

While the group has agreed not to make public the details of the plan under discussion unless and until there is a final accord, it is expected that a ceasefire would include a proposal to order an arms embargo against whichever side rejected that

appeal. One published account of the talks described the proposals as containing the harshest language on the subject since the Gulf war began in September 1980, but a source familiar with the text said this was an exaggeration.

This source said that any draft resolution must be carefully worded so that it would be fair to both sides and this was the intention of the negotiators since the United States took the initiative in the case as long ago as January.

Iran has repeatedly accused the Security Council of bias in Iraq's favour and has boycotted council meetings on the matter for some time.

Iran says row should not affect ties with U.K.

LONDON (R) — A senior Iranian official told a British newspaper Wednesday that last week's abduction of a senior British diplomat in Tehran was a "marginally important" problem which should not be allowed to endanger relations between the two countries.

In an interview with the Times of London in Bahrain, Morteza Mirmehdi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for legal and parliamentary affairs, appeared to link the incident with the arrest of an Iranian consular official by English police.

Britain said it may impose diplomatic sanctions on Iran if it does not receive a satisfactory explanation of why its second most senior diplomat in Tehran, Edward Chaplin, was beaten up and detained overnight by Revolutionary Guards last

Thursday. Iran has responded to British protests by complaining that Ahmad Ghasseini, a vice envoy at the Iranian consulate in Manchester, north west England, was tortured in police custody after his arrest last month.

Charged with shoplifting, reckless driving and assaulting a policeman, Mr. Ghasseini has been released on bail until June 11.

Iran said Chaplin, first secretary at the Swedish embassy which oversees British interests in Tehran, will face unspecified charges.

Mr. Mirmehdi told the Times: "The authorities in London arrested one of our employees on flimsy, groundless accusations. Then later, we learned that one of the employees of the British

interests section in Tehran was facing problems and had been abducted.

"Afterwards, the Foreign Ministry took some measures to ascertain the situation of the abducted British employee. At the same time, we learned that the problem of our employee in London was solved by the authorities there," he said.

"In any event, we hope that these marginal problems will be solved before precipitating a crisis in relations between our two countries..." Mr. Mirmehdi said at the end of a visit to Arab Gulf nations.

British diplomatic sources have said sanctions against Iran appear unavoidable, with moves under consideration ranging from forcing the Iranians to reduce their diplomatic staff in Britain to an outright cut in relations.

Iran warns against foreign presence in Gulf

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani has warned against the presence of foreign warships in the Gulf, saying their deployment could escalate military confrontations in the region.

Speaking at a news conference in Bonn, Mr. Larjani also said the Iranian government was continuing its efforts to win the release of foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon.

"The sending of foreign naval units to the Gulf would only lead to a confrontation and to increasing the danger for the entire region," Mr. Larjani told reporters.

"We don't need a foreign power in the Gulf, but collective security by renouncing military

violence," the Iranian official said.

He said a military confrontation would be against the interests of both the West and the Gulf states.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has announced plans for American warships to protect them from attack by Iran. Eleven Kuwaiti tankers are slated to begin operating under the U.S. flag and are escorted by U.S. warships soon.

Mr. Reagan said last week the United States was striving to ensure the safety of oil export routes.

Iran and Iraq, which have been at war since September 1980, have been sending planes to attack oil tankers in an attempt to cripple each other's economic

capacity. Both countries rely heavily on oil exports for financing their war efforts.

Mr. Reagan's plans to escort Kuwaiti ships also came in the wake of an Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. frigate in the Gulf. Iraq said the attack was a case of mistaken identity.

Mr. Larjani accused Iraq of starting the so-called "tanker war" three years ago in an attempt to draw foreign powers into the conflict.

"A foreign military presence in the Gulf does not mean security, it only means the danger of a military escalation," he told reporters.

Mr. Larjani said his government would step up its political efforts to end attacks on tankers.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
15:55 Cartoons
16:25 Children's programmes
16:55 Houston Hospital
17:30 Safari to Adventure
19:30 News reports
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:15 Varieties
22:00 Arabic film
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic film cont.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 *Champs Elysees* — 1st Part
19:00 News in French
19:15 *Champs Elysees* — 2nd Part
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sport Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Under the Rubble (special documentary)
21:10 The Challenge
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Telamark"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel. 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Country Music
11:30 *Hillside: The story of Motown*
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Reading
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 30-minute Theatre
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Discovering Music
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
19:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran
16:20 Programme Review
16:25 Cartoons and Children's programmes
16:50 The Little
17:00 Religious series
17:30 Friday's prayer
18:30 Religious seminar
18:40 Arabic series
19:30 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:30 News programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 A programme on the West Bank
21:30 Varieties programme
22:00

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz

7:00 Newsdesk

7:30 Classical Record Review
7:45 Reflections 08:00 World News
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

11:00 Newsdesk

11:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

12:00 Newsdesk

12:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

13:00 Newsdesk

13:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

14:00 Newsdesk

14:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

15:00 Newsdesk

15:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

16:00 Newsdesk

16:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

17:00 Newsdesk

17:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

18:00 Newsdesk

18:30 *Peoples' Choice* 08:45 The World Today
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Soundtracking 10:45

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition of photos at the UNESCO regional office in Amman on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (until June 6).

FEATURE FILM

* "A Chorus Line" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

VIDEO

* "Herve Bazin" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre... Tel. 6610267
American Centre... 644771
British Council... 641520
British Council... 6361478
Goethe Institute... 637009
Soviet Cultural Centre... 644033
Spanish Cultural Centre... 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre... 639777
Operating with News Summary 17:45
Write On... 18:00 Radio Newsweek
18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00
World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15
19:30 *Peoples' Choice* 19:45
20:00 World News 20:00 A Letter from Scotland 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 22:30 Time for Verse

VOICES OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12510 KHz

06:00 News

06:30 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline 24:30 VOA Morning 25:00 News 25:10 Newsline 25:30 VOA Morning 26:00 News 26:10 Newsline 26:30 VOA Morning 27:00 News 27:10 Newsline 27:30 VOA Morning 28:00 News 28:10 Newsline 28:30 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Hamzeh meets U.S. team studying health conditions in occupied land

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday received Mr. Joseph Califano, former U.S. secretary of health education and welfare and chairman of the board of the Brandeis University's Centre for Social Policy in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegation who arrived here Wednesday.

They discussed health relation between the Health Ministry and Brandeis University, especially regarding the allocation of scholarships by Brandeis for Jordanian doctors to specialise in primary health care field at Brandeis. Dr. Hamzeh explained to the guest delegation the deteriorating health situation in the occupied Arab territories under the Israeli occupation. He also briefed the delegation on the bad health conditions of Arab citizens there due to the closure of hospitals and health centres by the Israeli occupation authorities and their inhuman measures and treatment of Arab citizens in violation of international agreements.

The health minister also called on the delegation to investigate the deteriorating health situation



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh meets with a Brandeis University delegation here to gather information on the health conditions in the region. Heading the delegation is the former U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare, Joseph Califano (Petra photo).

in the occupied Arab territories when they visit them. The delegation arrived here earlier Wednesday on a three-day visit to Jordan as part of a Middle East tour. On Friday, they will leave for the occupied Arab territories.

Among members of the delegation are the centre's director Dr.

Leonard Hausman and member of the centre's board of directors James George who is of an Arab origin.

The centre has a programme which aims to establish projects in human resources development, health care, education and social welfare. This will bring benefits to the people of the region.

U.S. increases commitment to agricultural research centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed an additional \$800,000 to a seven year programme in agricultural research and extension in the Jordan Valley, according to a USIS press release. The amended agreement, which brings the total USAID commitment to \$6,420,000 was signed by Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kanaan and the acting director of USAID in Jordan, Mr. Richard Johnson.

According to the press release, the project, implemented in 1981, has established an agricultural research centre at Deir Alla to develop and disseminate technology for high-yield vegetable and fruit production. Laboratories to analyse soil, water and plant tissues, and to provide farmers with the latest information on disease control, pest management, viruses, and the diagnosis of plant nutrient deficiencies have made the Deir Alla station one of the best agricultural research centres in the Middle East.

The station at Deir Alla is staffed by technicians trained in the United States, Jordan, and other countries. The centre has become increasingly active with each passing year. By 1986 it was analysing 800 soil and tissue samples annually and recommending remedies to hundreds of farmers. A major contribution has also been the successful control of the spherical mealybug which was a severe threat to the citrus industry.

USAID is also assisting the Ministry of Agriculture in implementing a seven year Highland Agricultural Development Project with a contribution of \$2,500,000. This project is the largest technical assistance project ever undertaken in Jordan, and is complementary to the Jordan Valley Agricultural Services Project. It is designed to establish and equip a national centre for agricultural research and technology transfer and five regional centres. This network, of which the Jordan Valley centre will be a part, will not only provide coordinated research but will formulate and advise on national agricultural policy.

The patriarch is Thursday scheduled to be received by His Majesty King Hussein.

The patriarch, who arrived in Amman Tuesday at the head of a delegation of Christian clergymen, denied a Petra report on Thursday that he was to discuss a number of urgent matters concerning the situation in the Middle East region, the present situation in the occupied holy land, and the efforts being made to bring about security and stability in the region.

A press release by the delegation said that the visit had no political nature and that he always avoids any reference and comments pertaining to politics, national or international.

The visit, it said, was in response to a special invitation extended to him by Patriarch Diodoros of Jerusalem.

His holiness felt he should come to Jordan, another country committed to justice and peace, where thousands of Orthodox Christians are enjoying full protection and liberty, the press release noted. It said that the patriarch came to Jordan in order to meet and bless the Orthodox faithful living in the nation.

Ministry sponsors fete for students studying abroad
AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth is organising a two week gathering at a summer camp in Ajloun on July 16 for Jordanian students studying abroad, the director of the youth centres at the Ministry of Youth, Mr. Ibrahim Quteishat, announced Wednesday.

He said that the aim of such a gathering is to provide the chance for these students to meet Jordanian students studying here, who will share in the camp's activities to exchange expertise and views about different social and youth affairs. The students, who will take part in the summer camp activities are expected to number 300 and the ministry has prepared a programme of tours for them to different archaeological and development sites in the Kingdom, Mr. Quteishat noted.

He said that in addition, the participants will be taking part in seminars and lectures on youth affairs. By participating in the youth camp activities, the participants will learn more about their country and will relay a positive image about the Kingdom to the world.

Road accidents up by 6%
AMMAN (Petra) — Four people were killed and 157 others were injured in 265 road accidents in the Kingdom in the past week, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD). It said that the number of these accidents exceeds by six per cent the accidents that occurred in the previous week while the number of injured rose by 4.3 per cent.

Crown Prince details aim of 5-year plan, encourages Jordan-U.K. cooperation

LONDON (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said, in a speech delivered on his behalf in London, that Jordan's new 1986-1990 five year national development plan aims to confront economic realities and to propel Jordan's economy into a new phase of qualitative development which would meet the challenges of the nineties.

His address was delivered yesterday by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan at the opening of a Jordanian industrial fair in London.

The following are excerpts from the text of the Prince's speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
"It gives me great pleasure indeed to be able to address the Confederation of British Industry once again in this centre."

"The first part of my address will deal with overall economic trends in Jordan during 1986, which was the first year of the new five year development plan. The second part will dwell on those concepts and aspects of the plan which, I believe, provide a new scope for further cooperation between Jordan and the British business community: one that complements and strengthens, rather than supplants, the existing areas of cooperation that have traditionally benefited both sides."

"As you know, ladies and gentlemen, the launching of Jordan's third five year plan (1986-1990) coincided with a period of sharp economic slowdown in the Middle East, following a decade of unprecedented growth."

"The strategy of the plan was accordingly based on undertaking necessary stabilisation and adjustment measures to deal with changed economic realities, as a prelude to the resumption of a sustained momentum compatible with new regional trends."

"A pattern of growth was adopted that builds upon the achievements of the previous phase, placing special emphasis on those areas in which Jordan continues to have a comparative regional advantage."

"A total investment package of about \$5.5 billion is envisaged by the plan, providing substantial opportunities for British industry. Out of the total, about \$252 million is earmarked for agricultural

and cooperatives, £500 million for water and irrigation; £700 million for industry and mining; £470 million for energy and resources; £174 million for telecommunications; £803 million for transportation. The list is long, and detailed documents are available to you here today."

"Despite enormous challenges, Jordan's economic performance in 1986 was very satisfactory. Most of our economic indicators have been moving in the desired direction."

"Although international markets for our main mineral exports continued to be weak, and external transfers to the government exhibited a further decline, preliminary figures for 1986 indicate that GNP registered a healthy growth rate of about 3% in real terms, compared with a decline of about 3% in 1985."

"Remittances by Jordanians working abroad (an important factor in our balance of payments) registered a slight increase of about 4%, thus demonstrating continuing strong demand for Jordanian skills in the neighbouring countries despite the steady slowdown in their oil sectors."

"This contrasts with previous pessimistic forecasts by certain observers of a sharp decline (or even a drying-up) of remittances."

"Our exports in quantum terms registered an increase of about 4%, though their value declined sharply by about 18% in reflection of the decline in international prices. However, as a result of an even more rapid fall in imports, our trade deficit decreased during 1986 by about 22%, indicating the success that our adjustment and stabilisation policies have achieved so far..."

"Inflation was brought down from 3% in 1985 to zero in 1986. At the same time, the growth of government expenditures has been successfully brought under control. In certain areas, actual cuts have been achieved through rationalisation and a more efficient use of resources."

"Based on our record during the challenging year of 1986, it can be said with confidence that our economic adjustment package has a good chance of being completed successfully thus paving the way for a turn-around in the economy as envisaged by the plan."

"In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the turn-around is already underway, as indicated by a change in GNP growth from minus 3% to plus 3% between 1985 and 1986 as I have already pointed out..."

"Turning to the future and to new venues and opportunities for cooperation between our two countries, we note that, in their essence, they will stem largely from the expected evolution of Jordan's regional role in the remaining years of the eighties and the nineties. I believe that now is the time to consider these opportunities very seriously and prepare for the future within the concept of new type of partnership between the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both our countries."

"The regional role that Jordan played in the neighbouring oil countries during the sixties and seventies is widely known. Suffice it to say that today almost as many Jordanians are employed in those countries as within Jordan..."

"Our success, in Jordan, during the sixties and seventies in developing our human resources and providing individually-based regional services can naturally evolve in the nineties into the provision of corporate based regional services. One key component, namely skilled and trained manpower, is in abundant supply in Jordan. It goes without saying that management and institutional expertise from your side can play an important role in this evolution."

"Apart from opportunities in the services sectors, our rapidly expanding manufacturing sector (some of whose products are exhibited here today) provides British industries with additional investment opportunities in joint ventures or other forms of cooperation."

"Although our domestic market is small, the incentives provided by recent government legislation, coupled with Jordan's strategic location and numerous bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, have provided real opportunities for export-oriented industries based in Jordan."

"Jordan has multi-dimensional links with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and has recently signed its Third Protocol with the European Economic Community. A number of joint investment companies have been established between Jordan and its neighbours (such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Egypt) which can be used as vehicles for trilateral joint ventures..."

"Whether on the concept of technical and management related services, or in the area of joint ventures in manufacturing to cater for local and regional markets, far-reaching opportunities exist for British-Jordanian cooperation. What is needed is a mechanism for follow up by both sides."

"We in Jordan believe that time is of the essence. This is equally true in the economic as well as the political spheres. Despite the continued occupation of the West Bank, the Gulf war, and the deepening recession in the oil countries, 1986 has been a year of concerted action by Jordan on both fronts."

"As I have already indicated, the new five year plan has been launched to achieve the adjustments required by changed regional economic realities and to propel Jordan's economy into a new phase of qualitative development which would meet the challenges of the nineties."

"In addition, rationalised efforts have been mobilised through the Programme for the Occupied Territories to support the Arab initiative there and to contain a seriously deteriorating economic situation before it reaches a point of no return."

"Simultaneously, Jordan has continued to do all that it can to revitalise the peace process and to achieve progress towards the convening of an international peace conference. Our vision for the future is based on the promotion of further socio-economic progress to provide strong and lasting underpinnings to peace and stability throughout the region."

Jordan, India to finalise agreement on air routes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will go to India in the second half of this month for negotiations on an air transport deal between the national air carriers of India and Jordan. The delegation will be led by CAA Director Amin Al Hussein and will include representatives of the Royal Jordanian airline.

In February, Jordan and India signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in air transport. The memorandum provided for Royal Jordanian airline to operate a weekly flight between Amman and New Delhi and a once-weekly flight from Amman to Calcutta.

The memorandum called for officials from the two countries to hold a meeting in the near future to exchange information connected with regular air transport operations between the two countries.

Haj Hassan warns of risk from unbridled development

GENEVA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said here Wednesday that "constructive peace based on justice and equality is the only means to protect the gains of the industrial revolution, while avoiding the risks of chronic economic crises and war."

In a speech he delivered here Wednesday after his election as chairman of the 73rd conference

211,000 tonnes of goods imported through Aqaba in April

AMMAN (Petra) — According to a statistical bulletin issued Wednesday, a total of 211,101 tonnes of different products have been imported via Aqaba port during April of this year.

The bulletin said that the products were mainly iron, cereals, sugar, rice and fodder in addition

Dudin, UNRWA review steps to educate refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — Topics related to the education of Palestinian refugee children in Jordan were discussed here Wednesday at a meeting by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daud and Mr. Ele Saaf, director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Jordan.

The minister emphasised the need for making available necessary funds for the construction and maintenance of UNRWA installations.

The two also reviewed an agenda of subjects to be taken up at a meeting in July by countries that offer donations to UNRWA. The meeting was attended by the ministry's under secretary, Ahmad Qatanani.

He said that overdue telephone bills for the past year and earlier years amount to JD 2.25 million.

Italy, Jordan discuss West Bank development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian ambassador to Jordan, Luigi Amadei, met Wednesday with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daud to discuss the Italian government's contribution to a Jordanian-sponsored plan for the development of Israeli-occupied Arab territory.

The ambassador was accompanied to the meeting by Mr. Bruno Cabras, head of the Middle East bureau at the Department of Technical Cooperation in the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome. At the meeting, a general review of the situation in the occupied territories was made and needs for development discussed,

according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The ambassador accompanied by Mr. Cabras later met with the ministry under secretary, Ahmad Qatanani, with whom they discussed the occupied West Bank's health projects, Petra said.

Italy is taking part in financing and executing Jordan's five year social and economic development plan for the occupied territories. Mr. Cabras, accompanied by a number of Italian officials, arrived in Amman on Tuesday after making a tour of the occupied West Bank, during which he visited the health institutions, Petra said.

India disclaims purchasing potash from Israel in violation of embargo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — India has categorically denied reports that it had purchased potash from Israel, breaking its trade and economic boycott of the Jewish state and said there was no change in New Delhi's rejection of ties with Tel Aviv as long as Israel continued its present policies.

"We are strictly maintaining our total trade and economic boycott of Israel," said the Indian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Gurcharan Singh. "Reports suggesting otherwise could only be described as mischievous with some ulterior motives," he said.

The ambassador was replying to a Jordan Times question whether a statement by an official Israeli spokesman was true that India had bought \$2 million worth of potash from Israel.

According to the May 26 statement by the spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of Trade, the potash deal was struck directly between India's Ministry of Agriculture and Israel. The consignment was sent from the Israeli port of Eilat to an unidentified Indian port, according to the spokesman.

However, there was no explanation why the Indian ministry was involved in the purported

deal, since a government agency, the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), is the sole authority in charge of imports of fertiliser products. The ministry is not empowered to strike any direct deals for such imports.

Mr. Singh said: "According to information available to me from New Delhi, there was never such a consignment," he said. "India has no reason to change its refusal to accept any consignment originating in Israel," he said.

The ambassador, however, appeared to be leaving open the possibility that the potash deal could have involved a third party. Noting that India is one of the world's largest consumer and importer of potash, phosphates and fertiliser products, he said the government of India regularly imports potash from Jordan, Morocco and Canada and that occasional deals were also struck with Norway.

This appeared to confirm reports that India had come under Scandinavian pressure to end its trade boycott of Israel. Reports suggested that the Scandinavian countries had held back aid to India until and unless New Delhi initiated trade contacts with Israel and that the reported potash deal was one way of Indian compliance with the precondition.

Mr. Singh said Wednesday that despite the absence of diplomatic


relations between India and Morocco, the Indian government was still importing Moroccan phosphates and potash, but that "India finds no reason to change its policy towards Israel."

Morocco broke diplomatic relations with India after New Delhi recognised the Polisario Front fighting Morocco for independence of Western Sahara.

India, one of the founders of the non-aligned movement, has always supported Arab causes in the international and regional scenes and called on Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since 1967.

New Delhi maintains no diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv although there is an Israeli consulate now working with a skeleton staff in Bombay. The consul was declared persona non grata in 1983 after he attacked India's support for the Arabs and contended that New Delhi had more considerations for its strong economic relations with the Arab World than adopting an "objective" stand towards Israel.

Mr. Singh reaffirmed the Indian stand that Israel should evacuate the occupied Arab territories and make peace with the Arabs on the basis of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to an independent state.



Lorenzo
The Only
Restaurant
in Amman
For People
Who Don't Admire
Restaurants.

AMMAN DESERVES Lorenzo
Jabal Amman, Between 5th & 6th Circle Tel: 621 985 *****

IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY CO. LTD. THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN SIXTH POWER PROJECT LOAN 2710-0-JO TENDER IRBD 1/87

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Sixth Power Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the above loan (TENDER IRBD 1/87)

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Timely assessment

FRANCE Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond's declaration in Tel Aviv on Tuesday that it would be harmful to exclude the Soviet Union from the proposed international conference on the Middle East is a correct and timely assessment. One need not state the obvious that the participation of the superpowers at the projected conference is a sine qua non for its relevancy and success. No-one is doing either superpower any favours by extending to it an invitation to participate in peace negotiations under United Nations auspices. Rather, one is assisting the peace process by assuring that the greatest powers of the world are there to lend their support to the international initiative.

There is no denying that the superpowers in particular hold most of the cards which could make or break the conference. The U.S. in particular has some very important cards in its hands as far as the peace process in the Middle East is concerned, and all peace-loving people would be most grateful to Washington if it played its role fully, wisely and positively. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union also has the power and clout to influence the outcome of the projected talks for peace in the area. No-one could imagine successful peace negotiations without the support of the Soviet Union. It stands to reason therefore that if we truly wish for a successful peace conference we should make sure that all the permanent members of the United Nations are there to lend their backing to the negotiating parties to reach agreement.

Likewise, it would be utterly senseless to inject into the preparatory work for convening the conference extraneous issues which are alien to the real issue and objective of the negotiations. We must not allow the idea of the conference to be exploited in order to extricate political gains here or there on issues which are not relevant to the heart of the matter. That is not to deny that some outstanding issues between Moscow and Washington constitute very important subjects and objectives. But, the conference's concept must not be transformed into a Trojan horse on which many other loads and aspirations are laden.

With this in mind, we can only hail the remark by the French foreign minister that the interested parties in peace in the Middle East must keep in focus the important role of the Soviet Union in the politics of this region. To exclude the Soviets would be tantamount to sounding the death knell for the remaining hopes for peace in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Fruitful visit

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai announced in Athens that Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question is identical to that of the rest of the Arab nation. He told the speaker of the Greek parliament that the Arabs demand a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab land, occupied since 1967. Greece understands and supports the Arab position and the speaker of Greece's parliament made it clear that his country's stand with regard to Arab causes remains unchanged. He said Greece demands that U.N. Security Council resolutions be implemented and a lasting solution should be found for the Palestine problem. Needless to say, the similarity of views between Jordan and Greece over the need to find a comprehensive peace reflects the deep-rooted relationship between Greece and the Arab World. Greece's position has always been marked with clarity with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Athens has always been supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Therefore, Rifai's visit to Greece is expected to yield very positive and fruitful results and there is no doubt that such visit would contribute towards further cementing Greco-Arab relations.

Al Dustour: Constructive Greek role

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai, in his talks with senior government leaders in Athens, reiterated the Arab Nation's position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab demand for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied lands. There is no doubt that Greece is adhering to its firm and unchanging position with regard to its relations with the Arab World especially as these relations have witnessed development in the past 10 years. Also Greece's position vis-a-vis Israel is also known to the Arabs, and for this reason Jordan voices appreciation for the Greek stand and Athens' understanding and support for the Arab World's rights. Jordan appreciates Greece's role within the framework of the European Community (EC) and its efforts to steer this community towards adopting a balanced attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. For this reason, we sincerely hope that Rifai's visit to Greece will play a significant role in strengthening Jordanian-Greek relations and also promote bilateral cooperation in trade, economic and technical fields.

Sawt Al Shaab: Part of continued efforts

THE talks which Zaid Rifai has been holding with Greek government leaders are designed to bolster Arab-Greek relations and promote cooperation between Athens and Amman in all fields. Rifai's visit should be considered as a complementary work started by King Hussein in explaining to the European nations the firm and the right stand of the Arab Nation with regard to the conflict with Israel and the legitimate Arab rights in Palestine. The King's endeavours had led to a declaration on the Middle East question by the European Community of which Greece is a member. Jordanian endeavours to win the support of Europe are essential at this stage as the Arabs continue to seek to convene an international peace conference. The talks in Athens have laid the ground for mutual understanding of the need for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Middle East. Rifai, apart from discussing the Middle East, has also outlined Jordan's stand with regard to the Gulf conflict and warned of the danger inherent in that conflict and its consequences.

Lest the Arab sword be returned to its sheath...

By Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman

TWENTY whole years have passed since the six-hour war which started and ended on the same day: June 5, 1967.

It is true that the horrible dimension of the Arab defeat in that war was manifested in Israel's ability to destroy the armies of three Arab countries, in its ability to extend by five folds the area of occupied Arab land and in its success in driving out hundreds of thousands of Arabs from their homeland.

But indeed, the most ominous dimension of that war would emerge if that defeat of 1967 should lead to the destruction of the will and the determination of Arab countries to resist and to struggle, and if it is allowed to force the Arabs to succumb to Israel's will and to accept its terms for peace and settlement.

This horrible situation has not yet materialised except with Egypt's Anwar Sadat; but this does not mean that we ought to congratulate ourselves that this stage has not been reached yet, nor should we go into a deep slumber on our silk beds, self-content and assured of our future.

We should realise that Israel and its allies have succeeded in creating a de facto situation that is no source of cause for Arabs' satisfaction or contentment.

The Western-Israeli coalition in general and the U.S.-Israeli alliance in particular succeeded in corroborating Israel's occupation of the whole of Palestinian land, the Syria's Golan Heights, Egypt's Taba, and also, since 1982, part of South Lebanon.

The unholy alliance has succeeded in providing protection for

Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and transforming it into Israel's "eternal capital," and annexation of the Golan Heights and imposing Israel's laws on the local Arab population.

This alliance has also succeeded in dotting the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Israeli settlements and settlers, and also in killing or intimidating, and also detaining thousands of Palestinians and non-Palestinian Arabs living under occupation; in evicting thousands of others from their homeland, in draining Arab territory of its wealth and manpower and transforming thousands of Arab citizens into tools of cheap labour in Israel. The Israelis and their allies have been denying the Palestinians their lawful rights, and are continuing to persecute Palestinians inside and outside their occupied homeland and waging war against Palestinian commands throughout the Arab World and distorting the image of the Palestinian and Arab resistance and freedom fighters by presenting them to the world as terrorists.

The Israelis and their allies have been bent on carrying out one massacre after another — by land, air and sea — wreaking havoc in Palestinian refugee camps and also in residential areas in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon.

Despite all that and the successes of the holy alliance and despite Israel's victory over the Arabs 40 years ago and again 20 years ago, Israel's victory is not complete.

The Jewish state's victory would be complete if the Arab Nation decided to accept its terms and conditions for ending the conflict. It

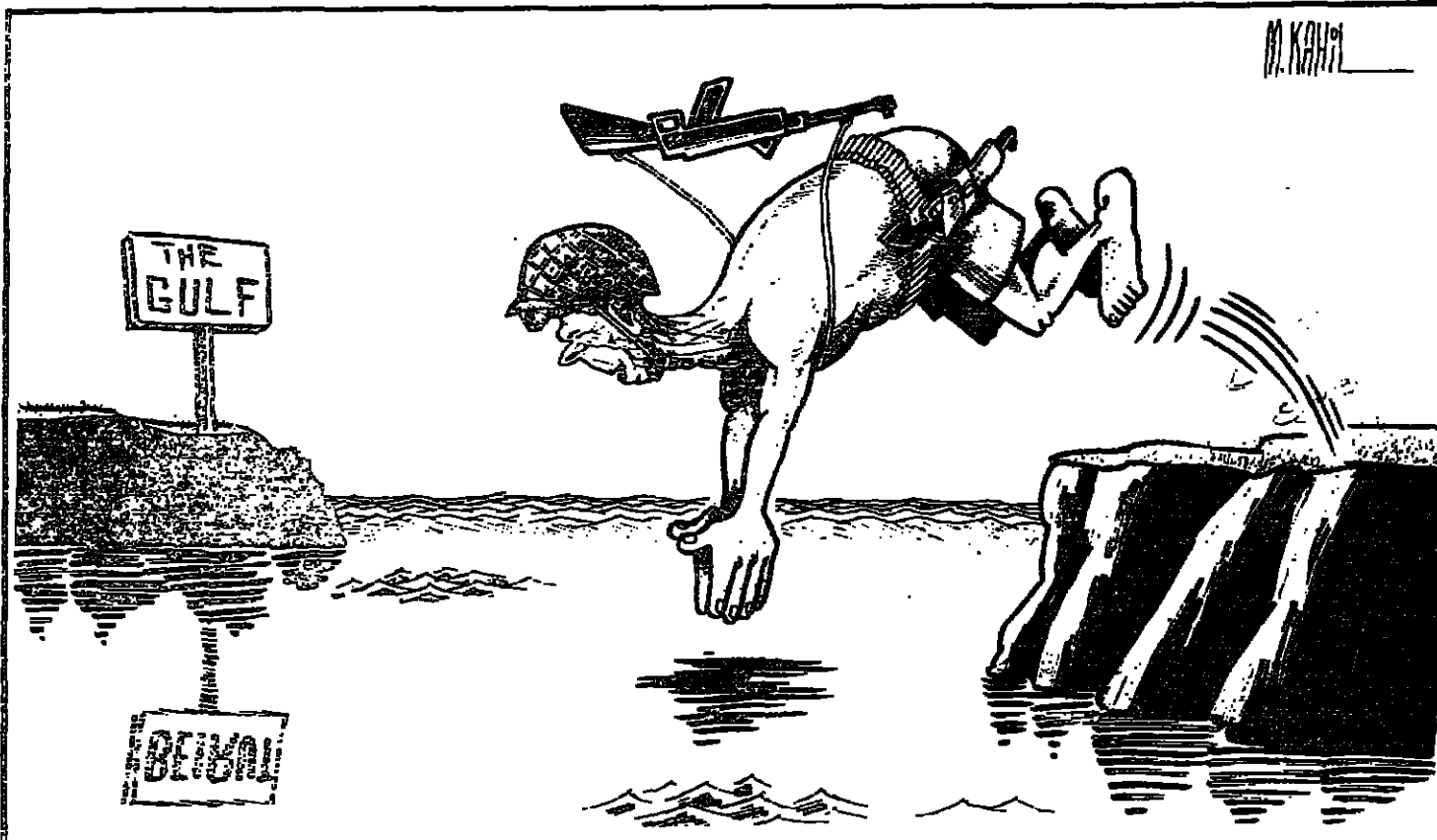
would be a complete victory for Israel should the Arabs accept the Camp David agreements and decide to normalise their relations with Israel, regarding it as an established fact, forgetting the past, capitulating and accepting whatever is doled out to them by Israel and its allies.

Israel's victory would be complete on the day that we forget the fact that injustice can never last for ever, or if we stop remembering the long and hard struggle of our grandfathers and ancestors through the ages against invaders of Arab land and Jerusalem and if we decide to refuse to follow in the footsteps of Algeria whose people's long and bitter struggle won them success in the end.

Israel would be truly victorious if the Arabs disregarded the long-established slogan that "whatever was taken by force can never be regained without force." Our defeat would be complete and Israel's victory would be a reality if we surrender and capitulate. Capitulation means losing the will to fight and resist the enemy.

Should that happen, then all of our struggles against Zionism throughout a whole century would really come to an end and all our wars would have gone with the wind, and above all the war of June 5, 1967 would have ended for ever and that the Arab sword would be returned to its sheath to rest there forever.

The writer is director general of the Amman-based Abdul Hamid foundation. He contributed this article to Al Ra'i Arabic Daily.



Pinochet cites 'CIA involvement' in attempt on his life

Marcel Niedergang interviews the Chilean president

General Augusto Pinochet, Chilean president for the last 13 years, tells Le Monde he is confident in the strength of his regime, though he does not rule out the possibility of its evolving towards what he calls a "protected democracy". He also claims to have "circumstantial evidence" of a CIA involvement in the attempt on his life last September.

SANTIAGO — You said recently: "If we leave the government, we won't have got any financial reward out of it." It's the first time you've mentioned the possibility of your stepping down from office. Is it a working hypothesis?

What I meant was that if we left — if we left — we wouldn't be any richer than when we took over.

Some officers have allegedly earned a fortune since you've been in office.

Of course they haven't. Our enemies have tried to find a crack in our armour by looking everywhere for evidence, but they've come up with nothing. I was once personally challenged over a piece of land worth \$3,000. I'm sure you understand that I'd never risk tarnishing my name for a sum like that. But they still tried to make the accusation stick. I read somewhere that retired officers get a much bigger pension than civilians. Is that true?

Not in every case.

They're said to get 20 times more. No, not 20. Whoever said that was talking nonsense. Army officers serve for 40 years and have no possibility of rounding up their income by working on the side as civilians can. Yet certain senior civil servants get a bigger pension than, say, the commander-in-chief of the army.

Since the attempt on your life last September, you're much better protected when travelling about than you used to be.

I've two extra guard units. We worked out that if we'd had just one extra unit in September they wouldn't have been able to attack us the way they did. Do you feel more threatened than before?

No. I'm not afraid of anybody. I've been the subject of threats for 13 years. There have been other attempts which were not made public. Once they hoped to kill me when I was visiting my mother in Miraflores. They were lying in wait for me, only I didn't go that day. The security police went instead, and discovered a group of guerrillas.

Do you think the CIA was involved in the September attack?

The only evidence I have is

circumstantial. Shortly after taking over in 1973, I was told by someone in the CIA that his organisation was unhappy with what I'd done because there had been a lot of bloodshed. But do you imagine that we were the only people to use weapons? — That those on the other side wanted to embrace us?

The same person again warned me in 1976 that I might be in danger. Later, two other people got a similar message through to me concerning the CIA. A further warning came in February last year: "Be careful, the CIA is collecting intelligence." "Intelligence about what?" I asked. "It's asking questions," came the answer.

Then there was the September attack. I said to myself: "Well now! Could this be the CIA?" So I put the question to my friend Vernon Walters (the permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations). I said: "People here are saying the CIA had a hand in it." He replied: "No, Mr. President, you can rule that out. It's not possible. It's incorrect. You've been misled." I was then told, by someone else who knows a lot about such things: "Sometimes the two powers work hand in hand..."

You've complained of American pressure more than once recently. Economic pressure always takes more or less the same form. When a country like ours, which is already having difficulty in keeping its head above water, gets weighed down a bit more, there's a danger it may go under. You're similarly pressurised in France — yes, you are, to a certain extent. But, being French, you won't admit it. What I like about my ancestors is that they never admit to their mistakes.

My grandmother's second husband was a Frenchman called Pinochet who had come to Chile to teach botany and zoology. He was my political grandfather, and taught me French — which I've since forgotten. But as you can see I have a framed portrait on my desk of the man I regard as the greatest Frenchman of them all — Napoleon.

Have you decided yet whether to stand for the presidency in 1989?

That is a decision which must be taken at the right time and according to the proper procedure.

It's generally agreed that 80 per cent of the civilian population are hostile to you.

I've the results of the latest opinion polls. What you say is not quite true. The figures are at a level we've always allowed for, in other words 40 per cent of people in favour.

Is that enough to win a plebiscite?

More than enough, because there's a mass of floating voters who at the last moment swing to the victor. When we organised the 1980 plebiscite on the constitution, the polls gave us 35 per cent of the vote, and we in fact got 67 per cent.

There's talk, isn't there, of Gorbachev visiting South America?

He won't be coming here. Is that a categorical refusal?

Absolutely. There's no point in our allowing him to visit Chile. We won't give him a visa. He doesn't have any relations with us.

Do you believe Chile can remain in a state of chaotic isolation?

But we're not alone. With the Americans, there's always room for discussion, negotiation, reflection. Then there's the East — Japan, Korea, China. Yes, the People's Republic of China. I'm a bit wary on that score, but our trade with Peking has increased very sharply.

Do you feel in a stronger position after the Pope's visit?

The Pope's visit was essentially a spiritual occasion.

But political too, surely?

Not at all. Just spiritual. That's how I saw it. Certain people tried to exploit the Pope's visit for political purposes. They did all they could along those lines before his visit, and doubled the pressure while he was here. The aim was to present the world with the image of a country weighed down by poverty and demagoguery. But the truth came out. But delegates from the poorer suburbs met the Pope and denounced human rights violations and the level of poverty and un-

employment. And young Chileans rejected what they called the "university for the rich" and the "culture of death."

Can you name a single country on its hands? That has eradicated poverty? We are constantly doing our best to deal with such problems and improve the standard of living of the Chilean people as a whole. We've made tremendous progress over the last ten years — and the people know it. I reject such a pessimistic and negative view of things.

"Culture of death?" Let me reply by quoting Pope John Paul, who identified it with drugs, abortion, birth control, euthanasia, and materialist atheism. "University for the rich?" That's nothing but a political slogan. In Chile, all those who have the necessary abilities can study at university.

Are you saying that the electoral process now under way will result in a democratic solution for Chile?

Yes, I advocate a democratic solution, but without the participation of certain individuals. Call it a protected democracy if you like, one that takes precautions — otherwise it risks being eaten alive.

But a restricted democracy is not a true democracy.

It all depends how you look at it. Democracy as a lifestyle means freedom to live, to expand, to trade, to travel and to study what you like. What we cannot accept is being pushed around by the pseudo-democrats.

A former Chilean secret policeman has just been given a prison sentence in Washington for having had a hand in the assassination of Salvador Allende's former ambassador, Orlando Letelier, in 1976. Hasn't the reopening of the affair been an embarrassment?

The so-called Letelier affair is nothing to do with us, but a matter for the American courts. We've already received requests for Chileans to be extradited, but they have been turned down by our Supreme Court. If other requests were to be made, they would be examined by the judicial authorities. This isn't a governmental or political issue.

Marshall Plan changed European destiny after World War II destruction

By Susan J. Smith
The Associated Press

BONN — The U.S. Marshall Plan of 40 years ago helped forge a united West Europe out of the bitter enemies who emerged isolated from World War II, with millions of hungry and homeless people.

But the Marshall Plan also created serious long-term economic competition for the United States, which today finds itself struggling with a huge trade deficit while West Germany, for example, has an enviable balance-of-payments surplus.

British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin called the plan a "lifeline to sinking men" shortly after it was proposed on June 5, 1947.

Two years after the allies defeated Nazi Germany, entire European cities, including their factories, trade and commerce, remained in ruins. Farming was virtually at a standstill.

The European decline threatened the economy of the entire world, one reason the Americans intervened. Historians say the Americans also acted out of fear that widespread misery would lead to more communist uprisings like that in Greece, devastated by the civil war of 1946-49.

"The United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health to the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace," U.S. Secretary of state George Marshall said in his 1947 speech proposing the plan.

The Marshall Plan pumped more than \$13 billion into non-communist Europe from 1948 to 1952. Its effects are still felt.

Celebrations and conferences about the anniversary are planned for June in London, Berlin and Copenhagen and Washington, D.C. as well as at Harvard University, where Marshall delivered the speech proposing the sweeping assistance.

In addition economic salvation, European leaders say the Marshall Plan was an impetus for the European Economic Community and NATO. They also see it as a key factor in the U.S. "containment" policy to block communist expansion.

"The Marshall Plan was a decisive factor for the recovery and integration of Europe. Without the Marshall Plan, European integration would not have started," Jean-Charles Sneyet d'Oppuers, one of the leading Belgian policy-makers of the time, told AP recently.

The plan's requirement that the Europeans outline their needs together forced them to break down traditional rivalries and trade barriers, European leaders say.

Sixteen nations, including all of Europe except the members of the Soviet-led communist bloc, met on July 12, 1947, to develop a comprehensive economic programme in response to Marshall's address. German interests were represented by the occupying powers of the Western zones.

"It was an absolutely unprecedented effort. Sixteen different nations had to produce one united programme, and this we did," said Oliver Franks, who headed the British delegation and was chairman of the 1947 conference.

The U.S. decision to play a leadership role in post-war Europe also helped pave the way for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, said Bruno Heck, a former minister.

"The readiness to form NATO could not have been there had it not been for the Marshall Plan," he said in a recent interview.

Soviet leader Joseph Stalin re-

fused to allow the East European countries to participate, although the U.S. offer originally extended to them and even to Moscow.

In Western Europe, reminders of the plan are everywhere.

The funds completely restored French harbours, which were 70 per cent destroyed during the war, and retooled West Germany's massive coal and steel industries.

In Portugal, the Marshall Plan funded the construction of a textile factory at Oporto, now one of the country's leading export sectors.

In West Berlin, the money built houses for the thousands of the city's homeless living in the bombed-out ruins of the once-glimmering Nazi capital.

The plan also allowed Europeans to borrow American technical know-how. More than 100 foreign technical teams visited U.S. factories and farms.

One reason the Marshall Plan succeeded was that European self-help was a prerequisite for aid, policy-makers say.

Much of the aid was in the form of critically needed goods, such as grain and machinery. When European government received the goods, they did not pay the Americans, instead depositing the equivalent value in local currency in a special fund.

Money from the fund was then loaned for industrial and construction projects approved by the Americans. U.S. officials estimate that every dollar of Marshall Plan aid generated \$6 in capital investments.

Living standards in Europe rose dramatically, cities were rebuilt, coal production climbed, and by 1952, European agricultural output exceeded by 15 per cent that of pre-war 1938.

The plan also played special roles in some countries. In Italy and France, it helped governments resist challenges from strong communist parties.

"We began to belong to the West at the time of the Marshall Plan," said Egidio Ortona, a former Italian ambassador to the United States.

"It allowed the government at the time to take a stand against communism and bring about the participation of Italy in all the Western organisations like the (International) Monetary Fund," he said.

In Turkey, the Marshall Plan was the start of the country's economic modernisation. The plan continued U.S. assistance first announced for Turkey and Greece under the Truman doctrine of 1947, which was aimed at bolstering Turkey against Soviet pressure, including a demand for joint control of the straits that link the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

The British got the biggest portion of Marshall Plan aid, more than \$3 billion. Without the aid, Franks said, Britain's post-war recovery would have been "nearly impossible."

But perhaps the plan's long-term influence was greatest in Germany, where it started the integration of the economies of the three Western-occupied zones, thus paving the way for the formation of West Germany in 1949. It was also the first step towards the "economic miracle" of the 1950s.

The plan had a strong psychological effect on the defeated Germans, who did not expect anyone to come to their aid.

"In 1945, if I could have emigrated, I would have done so. We saw no future at all," Heck said.

For the Germans, the Marshall Plan "was a turning point at which we first saw a ray of light. As important as the economic aid was the moral strength that came from it," Heck added.

Mood of pessimism prevails over prospects for peace on eve of the 20th anniversary of war

By Najwa Najjar and Sana Atiyeh

AMMAN — After 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, most Jordanians and Palestinians in the East Bank are sceptical about the possibility of the Jewish state returning any inch of the land to its rightful owners, according to a limited survey conducted by the Jordan Times.

The survey, which covered a sample from each of different social classes of Jordanians and Palestinians men and women in the 25 years to 60 years age range, found a widespread belief that three factors were obstructing the peace process; the ideology of Zionism, the United States support for Israel and Arab indifference to the situation, and these factors have set the scenario to suit the Israeli determination not to return any land in exchange for peace.

Some of the people interviewed by the Jordan Times drew a distinct line between religion and ideology, and described Zionism as a racist and violent belief bent on expanding the state of Israel through occupying Arab lands. "It is no secret that the Zionist dream is to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates, and that the occupation of Palestine is only the first step," said a 50-year-old playwright.

An administrator who works closely with Palestinian refugees in Jordan said:

"Regardless of whether Labour or Likud, successive Israeli governments, through their 'iron fist' or 'velvet fist' policy of oppression, have tried to subjugate the Arab masses in the occupied territories."

"The occupation forces demolish homes and detain nationalists and suspected activists in a bid to break their will," he noted.

One Palestinian refugee sees "the atrocities committed by the Israeli invasion force in South Lebanon as a further indication of how the Zionists follow an inhuman and ruthless policy, with no regard or respect for any voice of reason or public opinion." But, he noted, "How can we expect otherwise since the state of Israel was formulated by a Jewish colonial gang?" He was referring to the past of today's Israeli leaders.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the current Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, was part of a right-wing terrorist organisation, Stern Gang, which was founded in 1931. Shamir, with other members of the gang, committed many acts of terrorism, including assassinations, against the British mandate authorities and Arabs in Palestine. Attacks attributed to Stern included the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte (a U.N.-appointed mediator), blowing up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem killing 91 soldiers and civilians — British, Arab and Jewish — and raiding the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin, massacring 254 Palestinian women, children, and men. Stern members also participated in organising large-scale illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine.

Some members split with Stern and formed another terrorist group called Irgun, of which Menachem Begin, a former Israeli prime minister who ordered the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, was a member.

"Since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, these Zionist leaders have had unequivocal support from the United States — military, financial and moral."

Today, said a professor at the University of Jordan, the imbalance in military power between the Arabs and the Israelis, particularly after a major Arab power, Egypt, was neutralised by the 1979 U.S.-sponsored Camp David accord, there is no incentive for Israel to return the land.

"Furthermore, Israel is supported by one of the wealthiest nations in the world which brings pressure to bear upon many Arab countries and force them into passivity," he said. This view was shared by many interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Peace based on justice

"We said we wanted peace based on justice, but where is justice and who is listening?" asked a dentist.

Many agreed that the Israelis consider that the West Bank and Gaza as theirs. "Everywhere you see settlements and armed settlers," said a female secretary who recently visited the occupied territories. "At the slightest display of Palestinian identity, even to the extent of displaying the colours of the Palestinian flag, Palestinians in the occupied territories face anything from harassment to imprisonment," she said.

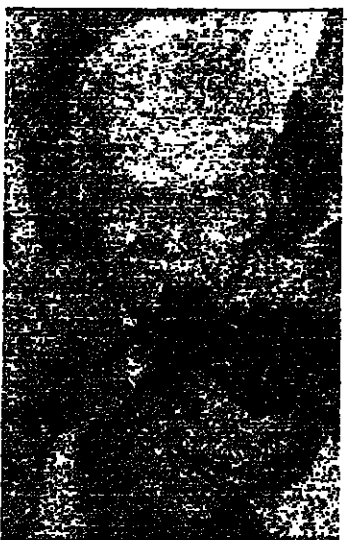
The continuous attacks on

Palestinian educational institutions in the occupied territories are another means used by the Israelis to disrupt and destroy Palestinian culture, according to a money-changer. "They describe our *debbek* as their national dance, and our village costumes as their national dress... what else is left?" he asked.

Most expressed the opinion that if Israel would ever return the land, it would be only under uncompromising conditions and constraints. "Israeli politicians have declared that no-one can force them to return the land unless and until Arabs give in to their demands," a writer noted. "Remember what happened in the Sinai?"

A civil engineer says: "If they do give the land back, the state of war will stop, but we won't have Arab-Israeli harmony."

According to a silver merchant, "even if the Israelis return the occupied territories, I do not think there will be lasting peace because the Israelis are not after real peace. They say Israel wants peace to pacify public opinion, but they are not willing to give up one inch of land." He believes that the divisions within the Israeli government have been deliberately given a high profile to



Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, is at home with a machinegun.

hinder any steps towards peace.

An artist said, "The majority of Israelis are not willing to give concessions that would be acceptable to Palestinians and Arabs. Even those who talk about compromise in Israel are not offering something Jordan or the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) can honourably accept."

A businessman said as long as "there is no recognition of the PLO, and other parts of Palestine remained under occupation, there can be no peace."

Pre-1948 lands

An editor of a local newspaper does not see a lasting settlement without addressing all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including those evicted in 1948. Supporting this view were many refugees, who said that even if the West Bank and Gaza were returned they would not return since it would not solve their problem. A vegetable seller, who was expelled in 1948, said, "My home is in Jaffa, what do I have to go back to the 1967 lands?"

Even those who had never lived in any part of Palestine agreed with Arabs from the pre-1948 Palestine. "Palestine is ours

The occupied West Bank — under the watchful eye of the Israeli military machine (J.T. file photo).

and there should be no compromise," said a 25-year-old driver.

Although many voiced hope for some kind of a solution in their life time, most said it was not a distinct possibility. "The problem is with the Israelis, not with the Arabs. We want peace, they do not," said a 42-year-old businessman.

According to a 30-year-old unemployed woman, "If a solution comes about in the near future it may not guarantee Palestinian rights nor their right to self-determination... and such a solution will be forced upon the Palestinians."

A waiter in a local cafe added: "Each side has its own interests and all the compromises will be made at the expense of the Palestinian people."

Several people said that the situation in the Middle East would remain indefinitely stalemated if it did not turn worse. Many described the situation as deteriorating and blamed the "indifference" of the Arabs and the "willingness of some Arab governments to negotiate with an uncompromising state."

"Israel is the main party that can actually deliver peace since it is in possession of the territories. It is the only party that can get things started. On the Arab side, we can only call for peace which is endorsed by most of the international community and hope the Israelis come to their senses," said a television artist.

Most of the interviewed said they were sceptical over prospects for an international peace conference. However, they said, they would welcome such a conference. A business administrator said he supported the conference idea "as long as all the sides will attend on an equal basis, and a PLO delegation is included."

A businessman said: "The least we can hope for is a successful implementation of all United Nations resolutions, starting with calls for safeguarding the Palestinians' rights to self-determination. This seems to be a remote possibility, not because the Arabs do not want it, but because other parties disregard U.N. resolutions with cynicism and view them as outdated and impractical."

A university lecturer said: "An international conference, if ever it was held, would be a farce since the Israelis will never give up anything."

"What kind of peace conference would this be?" he asked. On the same theme, a man who was interviewed on the street said: "Everyone was talking ab-

out a peace conference and when the Arabs showed their willingness to participate, all the talk died down. If the United States really had good intentions they could hold a conference and maybe bring some peace to the region."

His friend added: "I believe that such a conference would only seek Arab concessions, like what happened in Egypt."

The owner of a handicrafts shop said he feels "most of the projects for peace are not made by the people but by the Western world which wants to eliminate the Palestinian cause at the expense of the people. The Arab World and the Palestinian people do not accept the peace process nor to sitting at the negotiating table with Israel. The Palestinian people have not resisted and put up with the hardships of occupation for 40 years now to sit down with our enemies, make concessions, and get nothing in return."

Calls for Arab support

On the other hand, many people believe there should be greater support from the rest of the Arab World for a negotiated solution. One 48-year-old janitor said, "If all the Arabs support peace efforts, Israel would take peace talks more seriously, especially when it comes under international pressure."

A farmer said he believed that with more support from the world for peace efforts, the U.S. would "find itself in a position to be able to pressure Israel into accepting peace in return for the West Bank and Gaza under Jordanian leadership."

A research assistant went a little further: "A confederation with Jordan would mean that the Palestinian refugees have a place to live, and this is a step forward for this generation. In due course of time, they can demand the rest of Palestine."

A housewife supported this view. "There seems to be more possibility for a confederation than anything else," she said. An architectural student said the Arabs should accept "anything in return for peace as long as there is real peace." Another student said that if the confederation would mean a separate Palestinian state then the current peace efforts should be encouraged by the international community.

Armed struggle

A 30-year-old refugee was firmer. "We want peace, but we want peace on our terms, not on everyone else's," he said. He added that the Arab World should realise that it "is dealing with an unyielding ideology. Peace will only come through force."

According to a 28-year-old teacher, who noted that "action breeds reaction, and aggression calls for resistance," said: "It is important for the Palestinians to resort to arms in order to reassert themselves and open the eyes of the world to their right to self-determination and return to their homeland."

One of the teacher's colleagues added: "This right is warranted by divine laws, international laws and by historical traditions of mankind."

An artist who was expelled from Gaza remarked: "It is humiliating that Palestinians must ask for their rights from Jewish leaders who occupied Palestine only some years ago."

"It is the duty of every Palestinian inside and outside Palestine to resist Israel by whatever means available to him or her. Those who do not resist are traitors and servants of Zionism."

Most of those interviewed called for Arab unity as the first step towards confronting Israel.

"The Palestinians cannot liberate the land on their own," said a computer salesperson. "Arab unity should be the means for future confrontations with Israel. It is the only way that will lead to victory."

Military option

A factory owner who spoke to the Jordan Times does not believe that the Arab side will ever reach military parity with Israel to exercise a military option. "I do not think that any of the superpowers would allow such a thing," he said. "We are in fact left with no choice but to keep working towards an honourable peace and support the Palestinian people and their resistance in the occupied territories and hope for a change in the political reality."

Many of those interviewed believed Arab unity should have another purpose. "With unity the Arab countries would become a power which Israel must reckon with. Thereafter, the Arabs can

fulfill their part either through peaceful means or through military means," said a travel agent.

A candy store owner agreed. "No-one will listen to us as long as we are weak." He suggested that Arab leaders should make their interests secondary and give financial and moral support to the people in the West Bank and Gaza and back all forces fighting Israel.

A masters student's opinion was the same. "Problems between Arab leaders are personal, and their people get the bad end of the deal. The Arab World has the finances, and the Arab people are willing and they support all steps of solidarity. All that is needed is a change in the leaders' politics."

Arab-Islamic unity

The Jordan Times survey also found a trend in the working class and among refugees to favour the concept that the road to liberation included religious unity. "With Islamic and Arab unity, there will be common principles among Arabs, and thus we will have the power to force Israel into returning the land to the Palestinians peacefully or by war," said a worker from Al Wihdat.

A 60-year-old refugee in charge of a camp improvement committee said Islamic law stipulates that "it is the duty of Muslims to fight a holy war to regain stolen land."

He quoted a verse from the Holy Koran which asks Muslims to fight with "any weapon available and with it terrorise the enemies of Allah and your enemies."

Another reason given for calls for adopting Islamic unity as a means to a solution to the Palestinian problem was that it will create a great power which can pressure Israel. "There are one billion Muslims in the world, and the Arab World has a big influence on the Islamic World. If there is Arab-Islamic unity it could be used to apply pressure on both the U.S. and the Soviet Union since both fear Islam. In turn, the two superpowers can then pressure Israel," said one accountant.

Sit-and-wait policy

Another solution suggested by some was a sit-and-wait policy. "Israel itself will disintegrate on its own, as it is already beginning

Israeli weaknesses to win back all of Palestine."

Pacifist approach

A few suggested other ways. "There are about one and a half million Palestinians in Jordan alone. What could the Israeli soldiers possibly do if 20,000 Palestinians marched peacefully to the occupied territories? They cannot possibly shoot down all these people, and at the same time, there would be wider international recognition of the Palestinian cause," suggested a newspaper reporter who believes in a pacifist approach.

An office clerk said: "Arabs should, by all means available to them, show exactly what is going on in the occupied territories so that the world would stand by them against Israel and the U.S."

Indifference

Some of those interviewed showed complete indifference to the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian problem. "I do not know about the politics in the region; I leave politics to the politicians," said one housewife.

A computer engineer was more direct. "I really do not care whether a solution is reached concerning Palestine. I've always lived abroad, and as soon as I finish my service, I'm leaving Jordan. So whatever happens is not going to affect me personally."

This view was shared by a vegetable seller. "As far as I'm concerned, I'm a Jordanian citizen and I'm not suffering from homelessness. I don't care for a solution. The ongoing peace efforts may or may not be a positive step towards solving the problem."

Although most interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed their desire to return to Palestine, those who have already established a sound base outside the West Bank and Gaza admitted that they were less willing to give up all interests and return to their homeland. "But at least we will have the option of going there whenever we want," said a mechanical engineer.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT No. 56/87

The Natural Resources Authority invites tenderers for supply and installation of an oil gathering station in Hamzah Field (about 45 kilometres east of Azraq town).

Tender documents could be purchased from the Procurement and Contracting Division of N.R.A. at the Eighth Circle for JD 50.- upon presenting registered certificates from Ministry of Industry and Trade and the authorised professional licences. Foreign firms could obtain the tender documents through their agents in Jordan and should present their registration certificates in their countries duly.

Closing date of tender is July 12th at 12:00 a.m. local time.

A bid bond equivalent to 5% of total amount of proposal is required as a bank guarantee and/or endorsement cheque issued by local bank in Jordan.

Acting Director General
Eng. M. Abu Ajamiyeh

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Reference Point gallops to glory

EPSOM, England (R) — Reference Point, the colt whose connections feared he would never run in the Epsom Derby because of a serious sinus complaint, galloped to glory in the world's most famous classic Wednesday.

The 6-4 favourite, ridden by American Steve Cauthen and trained by Henry Cecil, led all the way to lift the \$433,500 first prize for owner Louis Freedman.

Reference Point recorded the fastest time in the history of the race as he fought off a series of challenges in the straight to justify his position at the head of the market.

At the line he had 1-1/2 lengths to spare over the 33-1 chance Most Welcome, the Mount of Paul Eddery. Third place went to

Paul's brother Pat Riding 11-1 Shot Bellotto for Mr. Khalid Abdullah, whose brilliant colt Dancing Brave went so close in last year's race.

The race was reminiscent of Cauthen's success two years ago on Slip Anchor, also trained by Cecil, although this time the winning distance was considerably less.

The result was a tribute to the training skills of Cecil, who brought the horse back to peak condition after all his setbacks in

the spring. On his first gallop the horse had pulled up barely able to breathe and had to have an operation on his sinuses which sidelined him for several weeks. His connections thought it unlikely he would make the Epsom lineup.

But the colt had showed he was back to his best with a fluent success in a trial race last month and he underlined his superiority on Wednesday in front of the 250,000-strong crowd gathered on the famous Epsom Downs.

Reference Point's time was the fastest since electronic times were introduced. The record is still held by Mahmoud, who covered the one and a half miles in two minutes 33.80 seconds in 1936, one tenth of a second faster than Reference Point.

Cauthen said that Reference Point had been "totally unsuited" by the undulating nature of the track. "He will be much more at home on a flat course," he added. "He's a great horse, but you've got to keep at him, as he's aware of everything going on around him. He was even looking at the crowd at the top of the hill."

Paul Eddery, rider of Most Welcome, said: "He ran a hell of a race but he just did not quicken. He gave me a great ride but he just did not get the trip."

Yves Saint Martin, rider of Sadiyy, reported later that the horse had been "coltish" on the way down to the start. "He was just too slow out of the stalls, he's funny ride," he added.



Jimmy Connors, who fell out of French Open on Wednesday, on his back in one of his previous matches (file photo).

Becker eliminates Connors

PARIS (R) — Boris Becker Wednesday produced the most mature performance of his brief but dynamic career to end Jimmy Connors' unexpected flirtation with the French Open tennis title.

Becker, who has never won a clay court tournament, played with new-found patience and a quarterfinal which had been a box office sellout ended in a disappointingly one-sided 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 win for the 19-year-old Wimbledon champion.

But well as Becker played, he may still lack the clay court expertise to seriously trouble his semifinal opponent Mats Wilander, who produced the most impressive form of the tournament to despatch Yannick Noah 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in a clash of former champions.

The other semifinal will be an all-Czechoslovak affair between titleholder Ivan Lendl, who beat Ecuador's Andres Gomez Tuesday, and fifth seed Miloslav Mecir, who completed a 7-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over compatriot Karel Novacek in a match carried over from Tuesday night.

Connors, who at three months short of his 35th birthday was bidding to become the second oldest champion at Roland Garros, was generous in his praise of his teenage conqueror, though quick to introduce a note of caution.

"He showed a lot of restraint. He kept the ball in play, though I worked him hard. I used the whole court, forehand and backhand, long and short balls. But he must play as well as that again, maybe even better, to have any chance of making the final."

Connors' age proved less of a factor than had been supposed and it was his notoriously raw forehand, first exposed by Arthur Ashe in the Wimbledon final of 1975, which crumbled away as Becker probed it like a dentist examining a rotten tooth.

Four times a losing semifinalist, Connors was the sentimental favourite of the 16,500 centre court crowd but the German quickly extinguished their fire by winning the first four games of the match.

Lakers beat Celtics in 1st game of finals

INGLEWOOD, Calif., (R) — The Los Angeles Lakers, fresh and hungry after an eight-day layoff, made the Boston Celtics look like tired old men Tuesday night as they won the first game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship series, 126-113.

High-flying forward James

Worthy led the Lakers' charge with 33 points, many of them coming on passes from playmaker Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the NBA's most valuable player, who scored 29 points.

Johnson had 13 assists and Worthy 10. Four other Lakers scored 10 points or more.

The second game of the best-

of-seven series between the transcontinental rivals is on Thursday night at the Forum.

The Lakers' balanced attack and superior speed and quickness left the injury-riddled Celtics, who were bruised and battered after crunching out seven-game playoff victories over the Milwaukee Bucks and Detroit Pistons, looking out of place in the finals.

Boston, trying to become the first team in nearly 20 years to win consecutive NBA championships, got its usual offensive leadership from Larry Bird, who had 32 points, but the Celtics injured front line of centre Robert Parish and forward Kevin McHale could do little to stop Worthy and his teammates from driving to the basket at will.

Asked if his players suffered any new injuries, Boston coach K.C. Jones replied: "The only thing hurt tonight was our feelings."

Boston missed their first six shots from the field, allowing the Lakers to jump out to a 9-0 lead and setting the tone for the night at the Forum. The Lakers led by as much as 21 points with just under eight minutes left in the second quarter and closed out the half up 69-54.

Boston pulled to within 12 points, as the Celtics streak-shooting guard Danny Ainge hit three consecutive three-point shots with less than two minutes left in the third quarter but Worthy answered with four points to give the Lakers a 101-85 edge heading into the final 12 minutes.

Los Angeles also dominated the boards, out rebounding the Celtics 47-32.

The Lakers, rested and confident after losing just one playoff game on their way to a third championship showdown against Boston in the last four years, built their lead back to 23 points with six minutes remaining.

The Lakers, who have beaten the Celtics just once in nine championship finals between them, are overwhelming favourites to capture their fifth NBA title.

Last year Boston, who have 16 NBA championship flags hanging from the rafters of the Boston Garden, beat the Houston Rockets, who were semifinal victors over the Lakers. Los Angeles beat Boston in six games in 1985 after the Celtics won in seven games in 1984.

The last team to repeat as champions was the Boston team of 1969.



Worthy fought with the ball in the middle in one of his previous games, scored remarkable 32 points in losing effort (file photo).

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England not to sell soccer match tickets

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — No tickets will be sold in Britain for the West Germany-England soccer friendly in Dusseldorf on Sept. 9 in an attempt to avoid crowd trouble, officials from both countries decided Wednesday.

The English Football Association (F.A.) agreed not to take a quota of tickets after talks in Dusseldorf between F.A. secretary Ted Croker, West German federation officials and police

representatives from the two nations.

But West German spokesman Horst Schmidt said between 3,000 and 6,000 tickets would be reserved for British soldiers stationed in West Germany.

He said talks would be held with the British army to ensure the military were strictly separated from home fans in the 68,000-capacity Rheinstadion. The West Germany-England international has been widely

seen as a test of crowd handling before next year's European Championships in West Germany for which England have a good chance of qualifying.

English clubs have been barred from European competition since crowd violence led to 39 deaths at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels. But no sanctions were taken against the English national team.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lewis seeks to bury Johnson defeat

MADRID (R) — Olympic champion Carl Lewis, still bruised by Ben Johnson's victory in an 100-metre showdown in Seville last week has said he was ready to better his rival's 10.06-second mark at an outdoor athletics meeting in Madrid on Thursday. "I had only been out of the plane for 24 hours and I made a mistake at the starting blocks," the quadruple Olympic gold medalist told reporters in Madrid. "I am in better shape now and I'm sure I will cut Johnson's mark here." Although Johnson, the world's top sprinter, will not be competing in Madrid, Lewis said he was untroubled by his absence.

Bordeaux, Marseille reach cup final

PARIS (R) — New French League champions Bordeaux and runners up Marseille have reached the final of the French Cup for the second consecutive year. Marseille, keen to avenge last year's cup defeat and Bordeaux's league triumph, romped to a 5-1 away win against Reims in a second leg semifinal match on Tuesday. Midfielder Thierry Laurey opened the scoring only two minutes into the match and Marseille quickly extinguished Reims' hopes of recouping two goals given up in the first leg.

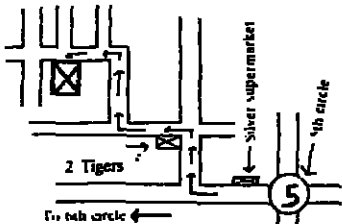
Elton John: Watford will be London's top

PEKING (R) — Rock star Elton John has said he was determined that his football club, Watford, would become London's top soccer side despite the loss last month of manager Graham Taylor. The singer, who is in China on tour with the Watford side, told reporters Taylor's departure from Watford, after a decade in which he pushed the club into the upper echelons of British soccer, had been amicable. "It didn't come as a surprise when he asked if he could go to Aston Villa," said Watford's chairman.

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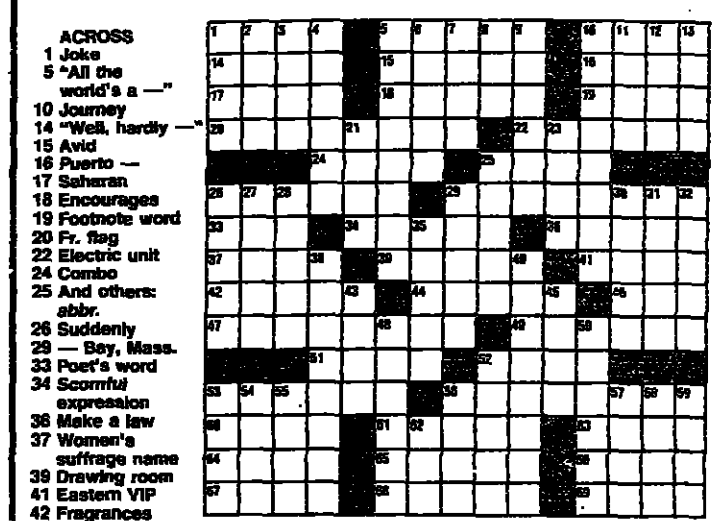
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THE Daily Crossword by H.H. Reddall



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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6405/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3440/45	Canadian dollar
	1.8045/55	West German marks
	2.0335/45	Dutch guilders
	1.4900/10	Swiss francs
	37.39/42	Belgian francs
	6.0275/0325	French francs
	1303/1305	Italian lira
	142.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.6250/3000	Swedish crown
	6.6925/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.7925/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	453.10/60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices remained mixed in thin trading late in the session here, although the FTSE 100 index showed a firmer bias as Wall Street opened strongly.

By 1409 GMT the FTSE 100 was at its high of 2,225.3 up 5.7 from Tuesday's closing and well ahead from the low of 2,220.9 reached in early business.

The early downturn followed Tuesday's selling and came after the British Broadcasting Corporation published a poll of 60 marginal seats showing the main opposition Labour Party narrowing the ruling Conservatives' lead. A fresh Harris poll showed general Labour support growing.

Wednesday's poll conducted by Harris for the TV-AM breakfast television station showed the Tories with 42 per cent of the vote and the Labour Party one point up on Tuesday's showing at 36 per cent.

When translated into parliamentary seats the Harris poll would give Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher an overall majority of 36 seats, drastically back from the current 140 seat margin.

The same Harris poll had given the Tories a 12 point lead three weeks ago and a lead of eight points last week. But many investors are still proving wary of the polls.

Soviet writer argues for temporary unemployment

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet officials, who have for decades said their full employment policy is a supreme virtue of the communist system, should consider permitting temporary unemployment, an article in Tuesday's issue of the literary journal *Novyi Mir* argues.

Writer Nikolai Shmelev, in an article notably blunt even by the new standards of openness in the Soviet media, said the economy was plagued with inefficiency and worker apathy.

"We should not close our eyes to the economic harm caused by our parasitic confidence in a guaranteed job... the real danger of losing one's job, and taking temporary unemployment benefit or doing obligatory work, is a very good medicine for laziness, drunkenness and irresponsibility," Mr. Shmelev wrote.

"Many experts believe it would be cheaper to pay temporary unemployment benefit for a few months than to keep masses of people in work who do nothing," he added.

"Today we have an economy of shortages which is unbalanced in all senses, is unmanageable in many ways and, frankly speaking, is virtually unplanable and still does not accept scientific and technical progress," Mr. Shmelev wrote.

"We have one of the lowest labour productivity rates in the industrial world, especially in the spheres of agriculture and construction, and during years of stagnation the workers reached a stage of almost complete lack of interest in real, conscientious work," he said.

"There is mass apathy, indifference, stealing and a lack of respect for honest work. At the same time there is an aggressive envy towards people who earn a lot of money, even if they are earning it honestly," he noted.

Mr. Shmelev poured scorn on the traditional practice in official newspapers of heaping praise on workers for performing herculean feats of production.

"It is time for us to lose our ideological virginity — which in fact only existed in fairy-tale

newspaper editorials. People will steal and make profits behind this veil of virginity more than they would if it was not there," he said.

Mr. Shmelev said Soviet people would have no faith in the Kremlin leadership's efforts to revive the economy unless they had tangible results in the form of better living standards.

"No amount of explanations will conquer people's well-known scepticism of words and lack of faith that the leaders have really got down to business and will follow the changes right through to the end," he said.

"... It is inconceivable that we are buying so much bread and meat from abroad while, fearing some individuals might earn too much, we are strangling the economic initiative of hundreds of thousands and millions of our own citizens," he added.

Mr. Shmelev demanded more competition between industries to improve quality, called for the rouble to be made convertible into Western currencies at a realistic rate, and said heavy subsidies of prices for staple items must be ironed out.

On unemployment, officially considered to have been stamped out in the 1930s, Mr. Shmelev said some two per cent of able-bodied workers were normally out of work and looking for jobs, or three per cent if vagrants were counted.

"It is one thing to look at the problem whilst pretending that we have no unemployment, and another thing altogether to do so when one calmly takes into account the fact that we do have unemployment and it cannot be otherwise," he wrote.

Soviet officials have vowed to maintain their full employment policy as they streamline the economy and phase out overmanned industries.

Mr. Shmelev also said the Soviet Union should reconsider its economic relations with other communist and developing states. "So far, they are of no real use either to us or to our partners," he commented.

Sarney declares war on Brazil's record inflation

BRASILIA (R) — President Jose Sarney on Tuesday declared a "war without quarter" on Brazil's record annual inflation of about 800 per cent and told his ministers to watch every cent of public expenditure.

Mr. Sarney, addressing his cabinet live on television, also reiterated that he intended to remain in power for five years, until 1990.

He is trying to impose his authority in a long-running constitutional debate over the length of his mandate. The country's economic crisis has increased pressure for presidential elections next year.

Mr. Sarney gave no details of new measures to fight inflation, and many economists are sceptical of the government's ability to bring inflation under control in

the short term.

Mr. Sarney acknowledged the country was experiencing serious difficulties but said: "Brazil cannot stop, lamenting over the crisis. Nations do not weep. They struggle, overcome and strengthen themselves in crises."

He called on his 27-member cabinet to exercise drastic control over costs and economise at every level.

This month Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira is expected to unveil a key plan to fight the economic crisis and help reach an accord with creditors on the country's \$111 billion foreign debt.

Mr. Sarney said the economic plan would fight inflation, preserve workers' buying power, bring down interest rates and cut government spending.

Volcker departure jolts markets

LONDON (R) — Mr. Paul Volcker's departure as head of the U.S. central bank, announced Tuesday, kept investors nervous and not altogether convinced the United States will be able to continue to hold the line on inflation, dealers said.

On Wednesday, they sold the dollar to buy West German marks, knocking more than half a pfennig off its value until the dollar hit a low of 1.7975 marks.

But the price of gold — a traditional haven for investors worried that inflation will eat away the value of their cash, shares and bonds — eased slightly. Gold was fixed Wednesday morning in London at \$453.35 an ounce, \$1.65 below Tuesday's afternoon.

The dollar firmed against the Japanese yen, while Tokyo share prices rocketed higher, with the market index climbing 146.77 to breach the 25,000 mark for the first time, closing at a record 25,049.40.

A weaker yen should help Japanese exporters.

But share prices on Wall Street on Tuesday and in most of Europe on Wednesday were

lower. "The market is confused and we are all crashing around like a herd of elephants," said a currency dealer at a U.S. bank's Frankfurt office.

The question preoccupying investors is whether Mr. Volcker's nominated successor, conservative economist Alan Greenspan, can quickly win the sort of personal influence and authority Mr. Volcker had, after eight years as chairman of the Fed.

"I was rather shocked to hear the news... particularly when the world needs international monetary stability and must muddle through the international debt problem," said Mr. Shijuro Oga, who heads the Japan Development Bank in Tokyo.

In London, a dealer said investors and speculators were eager to hear congressional testimony from Mr. Greenspan, whose

nomination by President Reagan is subject to Senate approval. "He's got a long way to go to build up market credibility," this dealer said.

While many believe Mr. Greenspan is as concerned as Mr. Volcker about reining in inflation, some worry that he will be less able to resist political pressure to let interest rates slide in the run-up to the November, 1988, presidential election.

Others noted that Mr. Greenspan has recently said the dollar was weak and they believe he may want the dollar to slide further to cut the U.S. trade deficit.

A U.S. campaign to correct massive world trade imbalances — specifically to get Japan and West Germany to slash multi-billion dollar trade surpluses — will be a major item on the agenda when leaders of the three, along with France, Italy, Britain and Canada gather for next week's summit, in Venice.

Worries about the \$1,000 billion owed by Third World nations will also be up for discussion. Many investors worry about how ready Mr. Greenspan is to

play the kind of major international role Mr. Volcker has. The dollar's weakness against the mark Wednesday weighed on the Frankfurt stock market, where shares eased in the morning.

A lower dollar could price big West German companies out of key foreign markets, hitting their profits.

Similar concerns also pushed Paris, Zurich and Amsterdam share prices lower, as well.

In Britain, where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is campaigning to win a third term for her pro-business Conservative Party, investors were more worried about results of the latest opinion polls.

The benchmark Financial Times-Stock Exchange (FTSE) index of 100 leading shares fell 18.7 points to hit a low of 2,200.9 in early trading, as new polls suggested the Conservatives might have difficulties winning a majority in the House of Commons.

But many dealers said this drop was an over reaction, and the FTSE later recovered most of its losses.

Inflation tops Greenspan's priorities

WASHINGTON (R) — Alan Greenspan, designated to be the next Federal Reserve Board (Fed) chairman, is a free-market economist who has made millions on Wall Street and sent years as a leading government inflation-fighter in the 1970s.

The bespectacled and unmarried Greenspan has been a frequent financial commentator on television and part of the glamorous Washington-New York social circuit. However, he is best known as a pragmatist who eschews extremes in a search for practical solutions.

"It is a fair to characterize him as a fiscal conservative and one who has always been concerned about inflation," said Ms. Kathryn Eickhoff, who has worked with Mr. Greenspan for 25 years.

"The budget deficit would be the highest priority," she said. Mr. Greenspan, 61, has long been considered a top candidate to succeed Mr. Paul Volcker as chairman of the Fed. He has run both his own private economic forecasting firm, Townsend-Greenspan and Co. in New York, and served in the government, where he developed close ties with such figures as former Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Kissinger.

He was first suggested for the job of White House economic adviser by Mr. Arthur Burns, his former teacher and then-chairman of the Fed. Mr. Greenspan was chairman of the three-man Council of Economic Advisers from September 1974 until January 1977 under president Gerald Ford.

Throughout the Ford administration, the inflation rate, which rose above 10 per cent, was a major political concern.

"He's had a lot of experience with inflation, and as an inflation-fighter," Mr. Richard Medley,

partner with Smick-Medley and Associates, said of Mr. Greenspan. "He had that seared into his memory during that period."

After leaving the government, Mr. Greenspan, a New York City native, returned to Townsend-Greenspan, the Manhattan-based firm he and the late William Townsend founded in 1953.

Mr. Greenspan owns the bulk of the privately held firm and sometimes charges hundreds of thousands of dollars for his advice, which comes out in newsletters and other mailings. Clients are reported to pay thousands of dollars to have lunches with him.

Mr. Greenspan is considered a top economist with a solid grasp of the numbers and the subtle relations between them by professionals who have worked with him.

He has been a consistently conservative economist, but has avoided all-out supply-side or monetarist views.

Although he returned to New York in 1977, he remained active in Washington affairs, serving on several presidential advisory boards. He is a member of Mr. Reagan's economic policy advisory board and a consultant to the congressional budget office. He has strong links to Treasury Secretary James Baker and U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Unlike Mr. Volcker, whose personal life appeared quiet and austere, Mr. Greenspan is a public figure who has in the past appeared at glittering functions escorted by such personalities as television newswoman Barbara Walters.

Though he has been described as reserved and even-tempered, Mr. Greenspan commands the deepest respect and loyalty of his associates, said Ms. Eickhoff, who worked at Townsend-Greenspan and now runs her own economic consulting firm. When

he asks people to do something "people want to do it for him," she said.

Mr. Greenspan, who will be taking over from Mr. Volcker, a man internationally esteemed for his handling of the debt crisis and for dealing with U.S. inflation, is also known as someone with a comprehensive understanding of the world economy.

"Alan always has been a highly analytical economist with an integrated view of the world and how the economy works," Ms. Eickhoff said.

She described him as an objective economist respected by Republicans and Democrats. He is currently a senior adviser to the Brookings panel on economic activity, part of the liberal Washington-based think tank.

Some financial analysts, however, expressed concern about Mr. Greenspan's experience in international matters at a time when debtor nations are finding it increasingly difficult to service their massive foreign debt.

"He's a guy who will be respected, but he has not had a lot of experience," said Mr. Medley. Most analysts believe Mr. Greenspan will bring his free-market beliefs to the Fed and be a strong supporter of banking deregulation, in contrast to Mr. Volcker, who opposed broad deregulation of the industry.

Mr. Greenspan, who did graduate work at Columbia University and has a doctorate from New York University, has said he was deeply influenced by the philosophy of novelist Ayn Rand, who espoused the supremacy of free enterprise and the virtues of the profit motive.

He is a director on the board of a number of corporations, including J.P. Morgan and Co., Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, Mobil Corp. and the Aluminum Co. of America.

Meanwhile, U.S. congressional leaders said Tuesday they regretted the loss of Mr. Volcker as chairman of the Fed and were widely divided in their opinions of his successor.

Senate Republican leader, Mr. Robert Dole, said Mr. Greenspan would be a good replacement with his knowledge of the economy and experience in government as the top economic adviser to presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

But House of Representatives speaker, Mr. Jim Wright, a Democrat, said he feared Mr. Greenspan's appointment would lead to higher interest rates and a slowdown in the economy.

Mr. Dole said in a statement: "Alan's knowledge of the economy, coupled with his experience at the top levels of government, means that the leadership of the Federal Reserve Board will be in good hands. Alan literally has some big shoes to fill. But I haven't any doubts he's more than equal to the task."

Mr. Wright told reporters that Mr. Greenspan would not have been his choice. He declined to name his preference but said it would have been someone whose main goal was to keep interest rates low.

"His previous service indicates the kind of economic policies based on the trickle down theory rather than the percolate up theory. This theory tends to higher interest rates," Mr. Wright said.

Asked to rate Mr. Volcker's tenure, he replied simply: "long."

Senate Banking Committee Chairman William Proxmire, whose panel must approve the Greenspan nomination, called Mr. Volcker's decision to leave the top central bank post a loss for the United States.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when it may be difficult to keep some promises that have been made to you. Don't be upset if others cannot carry through with what you expect of them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It's important that you are conscientious in handling your affairs now. Don't expect much from co-workers.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't be disappointed if a friend cannot go along with you for a night out. Be happy with a favorite hobby.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be more willing to do something for kin. If you invite guests into your home, make sure they're new faces.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be most careful in speaking with others. Much care in motion is also vital now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan how to avoid an expense that could bring you much trouble and loss of money. Don't rely on your usual sources.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It's not a good day to pursue your desires. The planets are not favorable now. Be with those you know well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Anything that seems restrictive can be solved in a most sensible fashion now. Don't postpone action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A wise pal can help you handle some situation that is puzzling you, so listen carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to keep any outside promises you have made. Don't do anything to ruin your good name.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to others and find a better way of handling your affairs. Take no risks while driving.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make sure you handle obligations wisely and gain the respect of others. Be more understanding of your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Come to a better understanding with outside partners. Don't try to carry through with a project just yet.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be very good at searching for errors and rectifying them, but teach this one not to criticize others too much. Be sure to add psychology courses to the curriculum so that your progeny can learn how to understand the motives of others better.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can best get along with your fellow man by charming whomever you come in contact with. There is a tendency today to desire new scenes and personalities now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't permit a distant temptation to keep you from handling the important activities at hand.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can enjoy a happy time at some pleasure you like, but don't let the expense be too great.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A family tie and an outsider are not hitting it off, but don't get involved in any arguments.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your work nicely scheduled so that you have time for communicating wisely with others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be more concerned with the practical side of life. It's important to balance your budget with your common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go after your personal wishes carefully. Don't let a problematical affair at home disturb you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't confide your problems to others since this could only make them worse. Stay with your mate tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be with friends and allies today. Don't go off on any tangents because you feel restless.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Put your energies into handling business and civic matters intelligently now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't let the unkind actions of another bother you. You can get out and accomplish a great deal now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) It's a good day to complete the work you have started. Don't let a gossip waste your time.

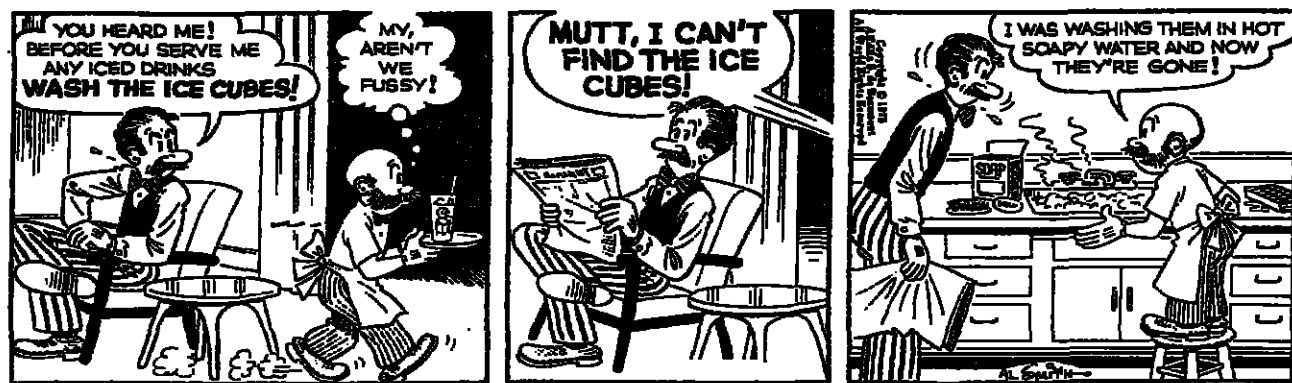
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have long talks with a partner, and plan for greater success in the future. Be alert to opportunities.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will do well in such professions as engineering and architecture or whatever has to do with details. Teach your progeny not to go from one interest to another, but to persevere in whatever the forte is here. Much success is possible this way.

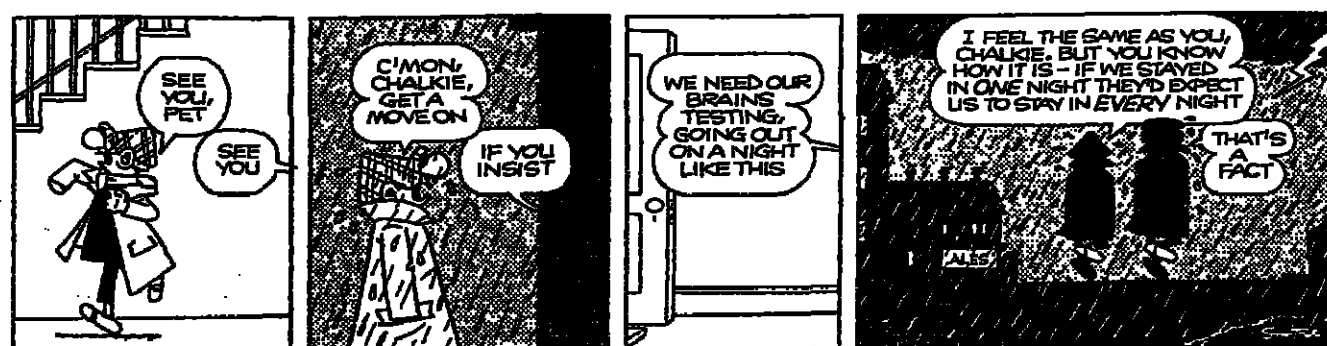
Peanuts



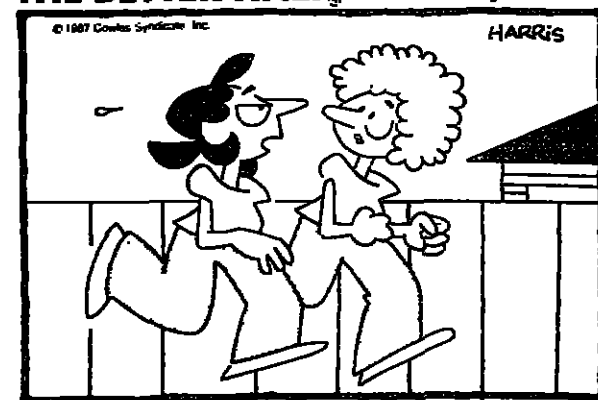
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

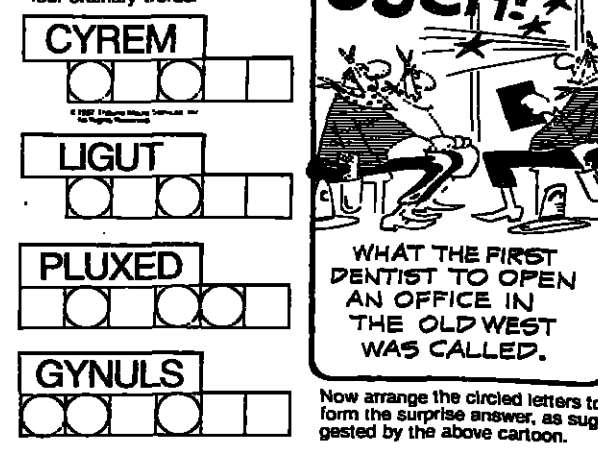


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAFE DRONE WISDOM RARITY
Answer: He's sometimes weather-wise, but more often this — OTHERWISE

Sri Lanka stops Indian relief flotilla

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's tiny navy on Wednesday night stopped an Indian relief flotilla as it entered the island's territorial waters with emergency supplies for the Tamils of the Jaffna peninsula, official sources said.

They told Reuters several Sri Lankan patrol boats intercepted the 20 fishing boats just inside Sri Lankan waters and ordered them to halt in the narrow Palk Strait that lies between the two countries.

After an argument between the commander of the Indian flotilla and the Sri Lankan commander, the Indians anchored off Kachchativu Island, 18 kilometres from Rameshwaram, the small south Indian port from which it sailed.

The confrontation came at about 5 p.m. (1130GMT), 20 minutes after the flotilla entered Sri Lankan waters and more than three hours after it left Rameshwaram.

"We asked them to stop and

they said they were determined to go through because the people of Jaffna were starving," the sources said.

"We said nothing of the kind was happening. They agreed to anchor off Kachchativu and our man asked them to come aboard for a talk. They said they would only come if Red Cross and the media people came with them."

"We said this was not possible," the source said.

The flotilla was unlikely to move towards Sri Lanka on Wednesday night, he added.

According to the Indian Foreign Ministry, the unarmed flotilla is carrying only relief supplies and is not escorted by armed ships.

In a message to the Sri Lankan government sent earlier this

week, India said the relief operation was to be supervised by the Indian Red Cross and invited the Sri Lankan Red Cross to verify the contents of the consignment.

More than 90 Indian and foreign journalists are accompanying the flotilla.

India says it is sending the supplies because of shortages on the Jaffna peninsula — the main stronghold of Tamil separatist guerrillas — after a Sri Lankan blockade and a military offensive against the rebels.

Colombo denies the 800,000 Jaffna Tamils are suffering food shortages. It says it would accept Indian aid through normal channels as a goodwill gesture but not Delhi's attempt to ship and distribute the supplies directly, which would infringe its sovereignty and territorial integrity, India says it wants the supplies to reach the besieged Tamils as early as possible and to avoid "bureaucratic delays" in Colombo.

Kachchativu Island, where the

flotilla is anchored, is 57 kilometres south west of Jaffna town, which is controlled by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A Reuters reporter who visited the army garrison in Jaffna's old Dutch fort Wednesday saw three dead soldiers and 40 wounded, all victims of a four-hour attack on the fort by an estimated 150 Tigers Tuesday night.

The guerrillas fired mortar barrages and exploded a car bomb that badly damaged a fortified building nearby that houses the peninsula's telephone exchange.

The huge explosion blew in a wall that crushed a platoon of soldiers resting in a corridor and officers said 100 might have been killed if the bomb had got closer than 50 metres.

Observers believed the attack was a response by the Tigers to last week's offensive in which the army wrested the north-east corner of the peninsula from their control.

Australian opposition set to restore coalition

SYDNEY (R) — Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen formally withdrew Wednesday from next month's Australian federal elections, paving the way for the rebuilding of an opposition coalition shattered two months ago.

The maverick rightwing leader of the northern state said in a statement he took the decision to preserve unity in his national party and build a common front of conservative forces against Labour Party Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, who had engineered the split between liberal and national parties, had earlier threatened to lead a separate campaign to capture power from Mr. Hawke because, he said, the coalition had become ineffective.

The collapse of the coalition and Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's push for Canberra had weakened the

opposition, with public opinion polls pointing to a clear winning margin for Labour at the elections.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen and Liberal leader John Howard, who met Wednesday for the first time since the breakup of the 40-year coalition, pledged to cooperate.

In a joint statement they said: "The crisis facing Australia demanded the differences in the policies of the two parties should not be allowed to stand in the way of defeating the Hawke government."

The mood in the opposition camp changed Wednesday with both Liberal and National officials predicting a speedy restoration of the opposition coalition.

"Even if we can't get it all sorted out formally, it will be a federal coalition in all but name only," a senior Liberal Party official said.

Philippine army ready for escalation of war

MANILA (R) — Defence Secretary Rafael Iletto said Wednesday the government was ready for an escalation of fighting called for by the Philippine Communist Party.

"The elections are over. The other side is tightening the screws so we have to react. We do not have any limitations now," Gen. Iletto told reporters after a cabinet meeting chaired by president Corason Aquino.

Gen. Iletto said before the May 11 legislative elections that the military was holding back against the rebels because heavy fighting might imperil the voting in rural areas.

Since the election, the military had been launching more offensives, Gen. Iletto said.

The banned Communist Party called in its newsletter Tuesday for its 24,000-strong guerrilla force to concentrate on "further spreading and intensifying the armed struggle and bringing it back to a new and higher level."

The newsletter Ang Bayan (the people) said the election had caused bitter political quarrels between Mr. Aquino and her right-wing foes. These were "bound to explode in even fiercer... rivalries that cannot any more be settled within the parliamentary framework alone."

It said the Aquino government, with U.S. backing, "may win one election after another but will continue to face the most serious challenge to its rule outside its parliamentary home ground — the armed revolution."

Mrs. Aquino's ruling coalition scored landslide majorities in the senatorial and lower-house

contests, routing right-wing and leftist opponents.

In the latest incident in the 18-year guerrilla war, about 100 rebels Tuesday night ambushed an army truck in southern Lanao Del Norte province, killing a soldier, the army said.

Gen. Iletto said about 1,000 rebel "regulars" had surrendered over the past three months along with 3,000 from support units, after Mrs. Aquino declared an amnesty.

The government has promised to help rebels with jobs and homes if they surrender.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, chief of constabulary forces in Manila, said the danger of civil unrest from rightist groups had ebbed and he had ordered police forces to intensify operations against criminals and leftist "terrorists."

"We are shifting operations because the political situation has normalised," said Brig. Aguirre, whose troops played a major role in quelling rightist coup threats.

Army spokesmen said about 700 leftist guerrillas belonging to rebel assassination squads called "sparrows" were operating in Manila.

The military blamed the "sparrows" — named for the swiftness with which they strike — for killing more than a dozen policemen and soldiers in the capital since January.

Brig. Aguirre also said Manila's crime rate had gone up during the past three months, from 22.8 crimes per 100,000 people in February to 24.8 in May. Many of the crimes were theft and robbery.

Seoul ruling party backs Chun's choice of successor

SEOUL (R) — Leaders of the South Korean ruling party Wednesday endorsed President Chun Doo Hwan's choice of his close aide as his candidate for this year's presidential election, a party spokesman said.

He said the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) unanimously approved Roh Tae-Woo, an ex-general and the party chairman, as Mr. Chun's political heir.

Mr. Chun is due to stand down next February after seven years in office.

Mr. Roh, 54, will be officially announced as DJP candidate at a party convention next Wednesday, the spokesman said.

He said there were no other contenders after Mr. Chun Tuesday night named Mr. Roh, his military academy classmate.

As a divisional commander in 1979, Mr. Roh moved his troops to Seoul during a military takeover which brought Mr. Chun to power. He has since been regarded as the president's chief lieutenant.

The major opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), led by dissidents Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, reaffirmed a boycott of the "undemocratic" presidential polling, expected in December.

It said it would fight what it called Chun's attempt to extend military dictatorship.

RDP President Kim Young-Sam told reporters Wednesday his party did not approve of the ruling camp's "unilateral political schedule" which denied direct presidential elections.

He repeated demands that Mr. Chun revoke his April Olympics shelving constitutional reforms until after the Seoul Olympics and said the ruling party should scrap its convention. The opposition plans nationwide anti-government rallies that day.

COLUMNS 768

Champ helps police find kidnapped infant

WASHINGTON (R) — World Middleweight Boxing Champion Sugar Ray Leonard convinced a Washington man he should lead police to an infant the man allegedly kidnapped and tied to a tree, authorities have said. Police said Mary Battle had left her 18-month-old daughter Alecia and son Ernest, 3, playing in the yard of their home and the girl disappeared when the mother went into their home for a few minutes. Battle called police, who said later their investigation led to the home of a man who had lived with the mother and her two children. Police said the man refused to cooperate with investigators and said the only way the girl would be returned safely would be if he could talk to Leonard. Authorities tried throughout the day to reach Leonard at his home in suburban Potomac, Maryland. Leonard agreed to talk to the man and a police escort took the boxing champion from his home to the suspect's home in Washington. The spokesman said Leonard talked to the man for several minutes while police waited outside. Then Leonard and the suspect walked out of the house and into a tree. Police followed and found the girl tied to a tree. They charged Tony Spaulding, 27, with kidnapping.

War-time sweethearts get gift box

BOGNOR REGIS, England (R) — Bill Kingston, serving in Britain's armed forces during World War II, never failed to ring his sweetheart Grace at pre-arranged times at a public callbox in the tiny Devon village where she worked. Now British Telecom, the country's telecommunications giant, is giving them the distinctive telephone booth as a gift as it is surplus to requirements. Bill and Grace married and now live in retirement in this southern English resort. Said Bill: "When British Telecom phoned and offered us the box, we were bowled over. We're going to keep it in our back garden."

Naked couple arrested for making love in public

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Canary Islands (R) — A man and a woman are in custody awaiting charges after being found making love naked in a central square in this Canary Islands town, police have said. The two were arrested last Friday when they were discovered making love "totally naked and one on top of the other" in the town's Plaza Del Principe, police added. A policeman who tried to restrain the couple received medical treatment after the man, who was not named, punched him.

Former Uzbek official to be shot

MOSCOW (R) — A former senior Communist Party official in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan has been sentenced to death by firing squad for corruption, the Soviet news agency TASS said today. TASS said Abdurakhim Karimov, former party first secretary of the Bukhara region, had been sentenced by the Soviet supreme court for accepting and giving large bribes while in office. It said a number of people who had bribed Karimov or received money from him had already been judged and others were under investigation, but it gave no details.

Former champion sentenced to death

COLOMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan judge has sentenced former Australian javelin champion Reginald Spiers to death for trying to smuggle heroin and hashish into the country. Judge Lakshman Weerasekera of the high court at Negombo just outside Colombo sentenced the 44-year-old Australian to death after finding him guilty on four counts of smuggling heroin. He was also found guilty of trying to smuggle hashish and sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment. Court sources said the death sentence was routine under Sri Lankan law for people found guilty on charges involving more than a small quantity of narcotics. Execution under Sri Lankan law is by hanging but the sources said death sentences had not been carried out for several years and Spiers was not likely to be hanged. He could face life imprisonment, the sources added.

Takeshita leads race to succeed Nakasone

TOKYO (R) — Former Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita emerged Wednesday as the front-runner in the race to succeed Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone later this year, political analysts said.

Sixty-three-year-old Takeshita won the support of 118 fellow members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), giving him the upper hand in the fight to control the LDP's largest faction and become the country's next leader, analysts said.

"Takeshita has become the front-runner," Masayuki Fukukawa of Komazawa University told Reuters.

Red Square pilot reportedly to face trial

MOSCOW (R) — Mathias Rust, the West German teenager who landed a light plane by the Kremlin wall last week, will face trial, a senior Moscow editor indicated Wednesday.

Yegor Yakovlev, editor-in-chief of the weekly Moscow News, said Rust "will have to answer before the law" even if investigation showed he had no evil intent.

Yakovlev's editorial was the firmest Soviet indication so far

that 19-year-old Rust, who on Monday was visited for the first time by a West German consular official, would go on trial.

The editor quoted a Kremlin guard who watched Rust land at the end of a flight from Helsinki as saying he almost hit the building of the historical museum on the edge of Red Square when the square was full of people.

Yakovlev, who is close to reformer around Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said it would

be shown later that Rust's flight was "carefully prepared on maps and a model in Hamburg" from where the pilot took off on the first leg of his route.

Different possibilities for crossing points into Soviet territory were also discussed before Rust's departure, Yakovlev said.

The weight of the plane, a Cessna hired from the Hamburg Flying Club, had been specially reduced and extra fuel tanks fitted for the flight, he added.

Famous Spanish guitarist, Segovia, dies

MADRID (R) — Andres Segovia, the Spanish musical genius

who brought nobility to the classical guitar, died in Madrid of a heart ailment aged 94, his family said Wednesday.

They said he died suddenly after a heart attack. He had been watching television with his wife and son at his Madrid home.

A spokesman for Madrid Town Council said earlier that Segovia had died Wednesday.

Segovia's lifelong pianist friend Luis Galve told Reuters the guitarist was lucid until his last moments. "I am dying, I am dying," were his last words, he

said.

Galve said a heart complaint forced Segovia to curtail his annual tour of the United States two months ago. In recent days he had complained of exhaustion.

"He is the greatest guitarist we ever had," said Spanish Guitarist Joaquin Rodrigo, who composed "Fantasia Para Un Gentilhombre" for him.

"He would teach youths whenever he had a few free days. He used his money and his influence to enrich the repertoire of the guitar," he said.

Segovia, credited with rescuing

Spanish guitar from obscurity to give it a place in concert halls, was granted the title of Marquis de Salobreña by King Juan Carlos of Spain six years ago.

Born in Andalusia, home of the Spanish guitar, he gave his first performance at the age of 15. A man of intense energy even in old age, he had planned 11 concerts during his last U.S. tour.

Culture Minister Javier Solana hailed him as a giant of Spain's 20th century culture and the pride of his country. "The reality, as well as his genius, deserve tribute," he said.

Fiji expels New Zealand lawyer for ousted premier

SUVA (R) — Fiji Wednesday ordered a New Zealand lawyer out of the country five days after he launched a challenge in the supreme court to the military coup which ousted Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra.

State-run Fiji Radio said John Cameron had been told to make immediate arrangements to leave. Mr. Cameron, a former magistrate, works in the Suva law firm of Sir Vijay Singh, a prominent supporter of the ousted coalition government.

A spokesman for Sir Vijay Singh and Co. told Reuters Mr. Cameron was served with a letter from the Home Affairs Department while in court this morning. He was given 24 hours to report to the Immigration Department his arrangements for leaving the

country.

Mr. Cameron filed a writ in the supreme court on Friday challenging the legality of Dr. Bavadra's overthrow at gunpoint on May 14 and seeking the coalition's reinstatement.

The radio quoted the letter as saying Mr. Cameron's work permit was issued on the understanding it had the support of the Fiji Law Society, but this was not so and the permit had been cancelled.

It made no link to the Bavadra case. The radio said the law society had written to the government expressing its concern about the expulsion but gave no details.

A Home Affairs Department source, confirming the expulsion order, described Mr. Cameron as "an undesirable character"

Kabul to prolong ceasefire

MOSCOW (R) — The Afghan government will extend a six-month unilateral ceasefire it implemented on Jan. 15 in its war with the guerrillas, Afghan leader Najib said in an interview published Wednesday.

Answering questions from the weekly Moscow News, Mr. Najib acknowledged that the ceasefire had not ended fighting between Soviet-backed Afghan forces and the rebels, saying it would have been naive to think the truce would achieve quick results.

"Time will pass, let's not guess how much, and the country will find calm," he said. "It is necessary to continue with what has been begun. Therefore we intend to extend the moratorium on military activity."

Kabul announced the ceasefire as part of a "national reconciliation" programme aimed at ending the eight-year-old war.

It has described action by pro-government forces since the ceasefire's implementation as necessary to defend the country against attacks by the Western-backed guerrillas.

Western diplomats and guerrilla sources in Islamabad said Tuesday that heavy fighting had been going on in eastern and southern Afghanistan since late last month, causing heavy losses among both Communist forces and rebels.

According to Western military experts, some 115,000 Soviet troops are helping the Afghan army fight the rebels.

Najib said guerrilla leaders had not taken up an offer from Kabul for discussions about forming a coalition government because they did not want to share power.

Mr. Najib said he made the request for the money to a Brunei government official — which he said was legal because it was for humanitarian purposes — during a walk in a London park.

"I had, I guess, an index card or a slip of paper or something with me, and I copied it on a slip of paper, which I gave him," he said.

After the error was disclosed, Credit Suisse, the bank, said it had recovered the missing funds. The Sultan has asked for his money back.

Sen. Tribble made his comments

to reporters after Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams testified that he got the Swiss bank account number from Col. North, who was fired from his White House job after his role in the scandal became known.

Mr. Abrams said he made the request for the money to a Brunei government official — which he said was legal because it was for humanitarian purposes — during a walk in a London park.

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Poll shows Labour cutting into Conservative lead

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party appears to be narrowing the ruling Conservative lead, according to a new poll conducted in 11 constituencies where the June 11 general elections could be won or lost.

The survey showed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Tories might win an overall majority of less than 22 seats in the 650-member House of Commons, compared with 144 seats at the moment.

The poll, conducted by the British Broadcasting Corporation's Newsnight programme, gave the Conservative Party 40 per cent of the vote, Labour 35 per cent and the centrist Alliance 23.

Analysts cautioned that the survey did not necessarily reflect a nationwide trend but called it significant because it was conducted in so-called marginal seats, which were won with very slight majorities in the 1983 general elections.

The survey was the fourth conducted for such seats, which could decide who wins the elections, and the result was in strong contrast with a Mori marginal poll three days ago which gave the Tories a majority of 140 seats.

Mrs. Thatcher, 61, is seeking a

record third term in power — unprecedented since the modern British parliamentary system was established in the reform act of 1832.

Dozens of polls taken since the election campaign started two weeks ago show her as set to win a third term but with a far tighter majority than she enjoys at present.

Under the leadership of Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party has purged its embarrassing extreme left.

With more moderate policies and a slick campaign, the party has fought back from what seemed a near-fatal defeat in the 1983 election to become a solid contender for power this time.

In the past two weeks Labour has gained ground, mainly at the expense of the centrist Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance.

Meanwhile Mrs. Thatcher Tuesday warned of economic disaster if the opposition Labour Party wins next week's elections.

In her toughest attack on Labour's economic policies since the campaign began two weeks ago, Mrs. Thatcher told an election rally in Edinburgh, Scotland, that the ruling Conservatives had transformed "a lame duck economy into a bulldog economy."

Zhao prefers to be premier

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said Wednesday he would rather be prime minister than Communist Party chief, but that the decision on which of the two jobs he would keep lay out of his hands.

"Personally, I feel that the position of premier is more suitable for me and not the position of general secretary of the party," he told reporters at Peking airport before leaving for a three-week tour of East Europe and Pakistan.

Mr. Zhao, who has been acting party chief since Hu Yaobang's resignation in January, said the decision on which of the two jobs he keeps would be made by the party Central Committee at a congress in October.

Mr. Zhao said Vice-Premier Won Li would be acting premier during his absence abroad while politburo member Hu Qili would

preside over meetings of the secretariat of the party Central Committee.

Replying to questions, Mr. Zhao said China's leader, Deng Xiaoping, would very much like to retire at the 13th party congress in October.

"However, there are many comrades within the rank and file of the party who are not in favour of that, so it depends on whether Chairman Deng Xiaoping can convince them," he said.

"As far as my personal position is concerned, I can tell you with certainty that right now I have an overload of my work with the two positions."

"This situation cannot go on for very long, so I can tell you that at the 13th party congress there will definitely be another comrade who will take over one of the two positions I am holding currently."

Vienna summons envoy over Nazi camp guard case

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it had summoned U.S. Ambassador Ronald Lauder over the case of a former Nazi death camp guard alleged to have entered the country illegally on a U.S. passport.

It said in a statement that Mr. Lauder would be asked to "give an explanation, acceptable to Austria," on the case of Martin Bartsch, who was in detention awaiting expulsion.

The decision to call in Mr. Lauder had been made after consultations with Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha, the statement said.

Bartsch lost his U.S. citizenship last Friday after admitting he entered the country under false pretences and hid his past as a concentration camp guard wanted for a murder at Mauthausen.

A U.S. Justice Department official said Tuesday Austria must accept Bartsch under an agreement it made 30 years ago.

Austrian police arrested Bartsch on Monday three days after they said he entered the country illegally on a U.S. passport via West Germany.

Mr. Blecha said Tuesday he planned to send Bartsch back to the United States, adding that his country could not become a dumping ground for war criminals.

But the U.S. official, who

asked not to be identified, told Reuters Wednesday Austria submitted a letter in 1955 when Bartsch emigrated saying it would accept Bartsch back if it was shown he had gained a U.S. visa under false pretences.

Bartsch emigrated to the United States in 1955 after living for a decade as a stateless person in Austria.